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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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9th Circuit: No need to bomb NMI islands

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Friday that the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense's plan to relocate U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam correctly assessed the environmental impact of the plan but also pointed out that there is no need to bomb Tinian and Pagan in the name of national security.

The ruling states that Marines do not need to stage massive live-fire war games on the islands of Tinian and Pagan, that the Marines can conduct

See BOMB on Page 4

FIRST FEMA HOUSE COMPLETED

A dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first newly-built concrete home built under CNMI-FEMA Permanent Housing Program took place last Friday in Koblerville. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres performed the ribbon-cutting to welcome the residents to their new home. The house contains three bedrooms, a water catchment system, typhoon shutters, and generator hook-up and indoor kitchens.

Story on Page 4

6 test positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Six incoming travelers tested positive upon arriving on Saipan last Sept. 20, making this the highest single-day increase in the CNMI and raising the CNMI's total number of positive cases to 68.

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement, all individuals were identified through travel screening and were confirmed positive through testing upon arrival. They have all been brought to the quarantine site at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe where they will be monitored.

CHCC has also initiated

See COVID-19 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 20, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,013	61	2,074
Recovered	1,406	44	1,450
Active	532	61	593
Deaths	28	0	28
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			45,823

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	62	6	68
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Maria Lael Terlaje is 2020 Miss Earth NMI

2019 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero is shown here about to put on the 2020 Miss Earth Northern Marianas official sash on her successor, Maria Lael Terlaje, soon after the pageant ended during last Saturday's coronation night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI has a new environment ambassador! Nineteen-year-old Maria Lael Terlaje of San Vicente is this year's Miss Earth Northern Marianas, and she has a clear mission—to

See TERLAJE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies at 87

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a towering women's rights champion who became the court's second female justice, died Friday at her home in Washing-

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This photo provided by Time shows the cover of Time magazine with tribute Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsurg on the cover. Time will feature Ginsburg for an October double issue presenting the 2020 Time 100 list of the world's most influential people. Ginsburg, who became the court's second female justice, died at her home in Washington on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020. She was 87.

TIME MAGAZINE VIA AP

INSIDE

BUSINESS
United Airlines is adding Zoono Microbe Shield to its rigorous safety and cleaning procedures.

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NATION
Strong winds intensified a wildfire burning for nearly two weeks in mountains of Los Angeles

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WORLD
Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, moves close to easing severe lockdown restrictions.

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Local

Hofschneider: Casino project still progressing on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'Increase of construction activities seen after normalcy due to military development'

Bridge Investment Group LLC is still moving forward with its casino project on Tinian, according to Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), adding that they look forward to BIG opening their facility soon.

Hofschneider said that, although no tourists are coming to the island yet, it does not mean that BIG's work has stopped.

"They're still committed to finishing it and we're working closely with the municipality and working closely with them," he said.

BIG is building the Tinian Ocean View Resort & Casino. In March 2019, BIG and Wyndham Hotel Group held a hotel management signing ceremony for the Wyndham Hotel brand to create a Tinian five-star luxury hotel.

Hofschneider

Hofschneider also disclosed that with the military development on Tinian, there's several sectors or layers of military components that are moving ahead with their projects.

"But not to discount the delay caused by all these pandemic directives and, of course, the recent [COVID-19] positive case [on Tinian]. That prolonged some of the progress. …But it's moving forward. You just have to work through this pandemic situation," he said.

The senator said businesses on Tinian are excited with the current military development and that Tinian right now is just kind of waiting for things to get through with this pandemic. Hopefully, when there is already a vaccine and things go back to normal, they will see an increase in construction activities.

"That construction activities would lure business activities…and establish on Tinian," Hofschneider said.

The Shack is burglarized; 2 arrested

On Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, at about 7:21am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at The Shack restaurant in San Jose, Saipan.

At the scene, police met with the owner of the establishment who showed police a shattered window, along with surveillance footage of the suspect breaking into the establishment. After a quick inventory, items reported missing include: $350, about 30 pieces of black T-shirts with the establishment's name printed on the shirts, and an Android cellphone.

Later that day, the caller managed to get a ping of the last location of the cellphone, which was located along Ellegh Avenue in San Jose. Police drove over to the area but did not see any individual using a cellphone.

On Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, police were conducting routine patrol through San Jose when they noticed an individual exit the Friendly Market store and get into a vehicle wearing a T-shirt that matched the description from a recent case. Police followed the vehicle to a San Jose motel where the operator exited the vehicle along with a female passenger. Both individuals were wearing the same print design T-shirts. Police got down and interviewed the two, who told them that Dionisio Jr. Angui Ray had given them the shirts. Police were able to procure a total of 11 black printed T-shirts and a cellphone that matched the description. Upon further investigation, Dionisio Jr. Angui Ray and Manex Nimwes were both arrested in connection with the burglary and theft case.

On Sept. 17, 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued a Rule-5 for both individuals with bail set at $10,000 each. Both were served while detained in DOC.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime, emergency, or disturbance. Our officers are here to keep you and your family safe. ***(PR)***

How to avoid
PHISHING
What is phishing?
Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to steal your personal information such as usernames, passwords, account numbers, social security number, and other important information.
What are some red flags I can use to identify a phishing attempt?
YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM SOMEONE OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
THE EMAIL CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY CLICKING ON A HYPERLINK.
THERE ARE MISSPELLINGS.
YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.
What do I do if I come across a phishing email?
DO NOT CLICK ON ANY HYPERLINKS.
DO NOT TRANSFER MONEY TO PEOPLE UNKNOWN TO YOU.
DO NOT ENTER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.
Contact the Bank immediately if you have already entered personal information.
DELETE THE MESSAGE.
For more information on how to stay safe from phishing, visit our Fraud Information Center at www.bankofguam.com.
Bank of Guam
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Bill that suspends certain election laws goes to Torres

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate accepted during Friday's session the House of Representatives' amendments to a Senate bill that suspends certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general election to mitigate public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate Bill 21-68, SD2, SD1 now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres for passage into law.

All eight senators present Friday voted to accept the House amendments; Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian) was excused from the session.

The bill's author, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), said in an interview Friday that the election bill was a combination of work between the Commonwealth Election commission, his office, the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, and the leadership of Senate President Victor Hocog in collaboration with the governor, and attorneys of the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor.

As a result, Igisomar said, they were able to review with Senate lead counsel Antonette Villagomez all the other legislations and global best practices for an election during a pandemic.

Igisomar

The senator said he is glad that the House passed it quickly with amendments that were not detrimental to the intent of the bill. "We believe it's aligned with the intent of the bill. …[I'm glad] we were able to just pass it…because time is an issue," Igisomar said.

The bill will adjust the early voting time and add more polling places. It will extend the hours of operations for early voting and election day. The legislation will also authorize CEC to collect absentee ballots seven days before the general election and 14 days after. The bill will give the CEC flexibility to make changes to the election procedures if necessary to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Woman in 'ice' making scheme gets over 7-year imprisonment

A woman who pleaded guilty to her involvement in producing methamphetamine or "ice" in the CNMI was sentenced last Tuesday to over seven years in prison.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Joanne Marie Deleon Guerrero Castro to exactly 87 months in prison.

At her sentencing hearing, Castro, through her counsel, Robert T. Torres, asked for psychiatric and medical care for his client. Manglona granted the request.

Upon release from prison, Castro will submit to a three-year supervised release and comply with other court-ordered conditions.

Castro pleaded guilty on June 20, 2019, to possession of illegal chemicals used for making methamphetamine. She also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess prescription nasal decongestant that contained the ingredient pseudoephedrine, a chemical commonly used to make "ice."

Castro is one of a handful of other defendants who were flagged by a pharmacy and were reported to the Drug Enforcement Agency for their suspicious pattern of buying cold medicine that contained pseudoephedrine.

Last April 2019, an indictment was filed against Castro.

At the April 26, 2019 hearing, Castro was released with conditions to include that she be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office and be placed on home detention with no electronic monitoring.

At a change of plea hearing back in June 2019, Castro pleaded guilty to the indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical, knowing that it would be used to make methamphetamine through the "shake and bake" method

According to the factual admissions of Castro, she, along with others, conspired between Aug. 12, 2017 and Jan. 25, 2018, to possess pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical, knowing it would be used to make methamphetamine or "ice."

Castro said she purchased pseudoephedrine 14 times from pharmacies on Saipan for a total of 36,600 milligrams. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Jury selection today cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "17ES" that the jury selection scheduled for today, Sept. 21, 2020, at 8:30am and 12:30pm is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at telephone no. 235-4258. ***(PR)***

Thunderstorm over Saipan waters

Yesterday's weather was characterized by a strong thunderstorm over eastern Saipan waters, affecting Saipan coastal waters.

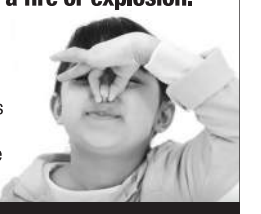
Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, satellite imagery indicated that the strong thunderstorm was capable of producing winds of around 30 knots. This thunderstorm was located 50 nautical miles east of the Tanapag buoy. The thunderstorm was moving west-southwest.

Mariners can expect gusty winds to around 30 knots, locally higher waves, and frequent lightning strikes. Boaters should seek safe harbor immediately until this storm passes.

Intense lightning is occurring with this storm. If caught on the open water stay below deck if possible. Keep away from ungrounded metal objects. ***(PR)***

The most common identification of a leak is SMELL.
If you smell gas, there is a possibility of a fire or explosion.

If the odor is STRONG:
1. Shut off gas if possible
2. DO NOT light matches or cigarettes
3. DO NOT operate switches or electrical appliances
4. Get everyone out of the building
5. Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's phone
6. Call Wushin LPGas Emergency Number



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Family moves to first FEMA-built concrete house

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REPORTER

Soledad Margarita Santos Ito, 66, of Koblerville, was the first among the many survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction in 2018 to move to a newly-built concrete three-bedroom house that the Federal Emergency Management Agency built under its Permanent Housing Construction program.

"I feel very much secure now. Everything is there for me. Thank you to FEMA, the contractor, and everybody that is involved," said Ito after the groundbreaking ceremony of her house last Friday morning.

Ito's husband passed away two years ago. She has five children, 24 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She and her sister, and granddaughter will stay in the FEMA-built house.

This was actually the second home that FEMA built for Ito. Typhoon Kim destroyed her house in 1986. FEMA also built her first FEMA house in 1987.

She said Yutu destroyed her first FEMA-built three-bedroom wooden house.

Ito said she moved to her sister's house when Yutu came.

FEMA broke ground on Ito's new home in September 2019. The home was completed last Thursday.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, who joined the ribbon-cutting with FEMA officials, congratulated Ito for her patience and also to other families whose homes FEMA will also rebuild.

Torres said he knows that FEMA is working 20 homes at a time.

"It's great accomplishment for all of us. And I congratulate her," said the governor, noting the partnership with FEMA's external affairs Todd Hoose and FEMA recovery office director Sheryl Cochran, and the administration.

Cochran said that it is actually very rare for FEMA to implement the permanent housing construction program or repair. "So this is only the fourth time in 40-plus years of FEMA history that FEMA has built homes," Cochran said.

She said FEMA sets a threshold for how much loss a survivor had sustained and then determines that anything above that threshold either qualifies for repair or new construction.

On Saipan, 59 folks are back in their repaired properties, while 29 other properties are under construction. She said there are 19 other new homes currently under construction.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TERLAJE

From Page 1

call for love and kindness toward Mother Earth.

Terlaje topped a slate of five candidates during the virtual pageant, which was held last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom and broadcasted on social media.

As the CNMI's winner, Terlaje will represent the CNMI at the international pageant, which will start on Sept. 21, 2020, and the finals will be on Nov. 29, 2020—all done virtually.

As an environmental advocate, Terlaje champions love and respect for the islands by inspiring the community to preserve and conserve its natural resources, and work toward helping achieve the goals of the Micronesian Challenge, which is to preserve the island's marine and terrestrial resources.

In a brief question-and-answer, the new Miss Northern Marianas Earth candidly admits that she was not that educated about the environment while growing up, that she used plastic, and that she did not even know and understand climate change. "I educated myself and, when I understood the impacts that humans were making, that motivated me to make me make a change," she said.

Speaking of human impacts on the environment, this year's Miss Earth sees illegal dumping as a serious issue in the CNMI. "When I would go on hikes or just go on walks in the beach, I would see these big bags of trash just hidden in the jungles."

When these garbage bags are opened to find out where they came from, they are usually filled with receipts and boxes labeled with businesses.

"I think that the environmental issue is [in] not educating these businesses on why we shouldn't just leave bundles of trash hidden in the jungle [so] we can't see it, or [not] affect us in the future. The changes that I want to see is educating them and incentives that we can make," she said.

She does not believe in punishments. Instead, she is pushing for educating "environmental criminals."

"Education really is the equalizer in society. With education, we build strength, we build a closer society, and, rather [than] punishment, [we can] give incentives and educate people because I think education is important. If we educate our criminals, then they will want to change, they will want to understand, and they will want to be better," she added.

Terlaje believes communication and education are keys to being an effective leader, especially with her new role, and believes that the pageant not only promotes local involvement, but is a great platform to invite the youth to make a difference. "My life has changed, especially joining Miss Earth. I do more, I live a better and a greener life, and I'm so grateful for that."

Aside from winning the Miss Earth Northern Marianas title, Terlaje also won most of the special awards, including Miss Friendship, the No Makeup Challenge, Environmental Award, Best in Native Costume, Best in Swimsuit, and Best in Evening Gown.

Reigning with, and supporting Terlaje in the Miss Earth advocacy are this year's Miss Air Julia Biton (first runner up), Miss Water Zoe Stephanson (second runner up), Miss Fire Kaitlin Borja (third runner up), and Miss Ecotourism Arianne Cabrera (fourth runner up).

Terlaje is the second ever Miss Earth Northern Marianas, and is 2019 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero's successor. The 'beauty pageant with a cause' is brought to the CNMI by Exquisite Productions.

COVID-19

From Page 1

contact tracing for the six's immediate contacts such as passengers on the same flight. When asked if this was a family or not, both CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, and Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez did not comment.

Mass testing in the CNMI was also temporarily suspended last Sept. 18 until further notice. As of Sept. 14, a total of 19,345 specimens have been collected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Muña said the suspension is necessary so that there is more focus on other areas of concern within the community. She added there are still chronic diseases that need medical attention and treatment and staff need to also focus on what's going on within the hospital and not solely on COVID-19.

She stated that their intention is to not just focus on community-based testing as a priority, but also on what's helping the community because the community has a lot of needs and CHCC has to be there.

Speaking at his radio news briefing last Sept. 18, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked the community for cooperating and working hard to ensure that the CNMI remains a safe place.

"We're all fighting COVID-19 together, not against each other," he said, citing this as one of the biggest factors why the COVID-19 numbers in the CNMI have been low and adding that even if it's not a perfect system, "we're all still fighting against COVID-19."

COVID-19 in Guam

Two more people fell victim to COVID-19 in Guam last Friday.

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported that Guam's 32nd and 33rd COVID-19-related fatalities occurred last Sept. 18.

The 32nd case was a 92-year-old female with underlying health conditions and passed away at the Guam Memorial Hospital. She was admitted to GMH on Aug. 27 and tested positive for COVID-19 upon admission.

The 33rd case was a 56-year-old female with underlying health conditions who passed away at the Guam Regional Medical City. She was admitted to GRMC earlier that day and was a known COVID-19 positive case.

"Our island suffers from each passing, and making these announcements will always be difficult for me. We are reminded of the fragility of life and are forced to confront our mortality.Losing a loved one is always hard and the pain is incomprehensible. Not only did this virus take them away from us, [but] it has [also] taken away moments they should have shared with their family and friends beside them," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I express our deepest condolences and sympathies to the families who have lost so much. You remain in our thoughts and prayers."

SUPREME

From Page 1

ton. She was 87.

Ginsburg died of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer, the court said.

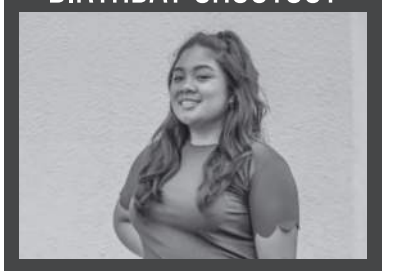
Her death just over six weeks before Election Day is likely to set off a heated battle over whether President Donald Trump should nominate, and the Republican-led Senate should confirm, her replacement, or if the seat should remain vacant until the outcome of his race against Democrat Joe Biden is known.

Trump, who called Ginsburg "an amazing woman," made his view clear on Saturday: He urged the Senate to consider "without delay" his upcoming pick for the high court. "We were put in this position of power and importance to make decisions for the people who so proudly elected us," Trump tweeted, "the most important of which has long been considered to be the selection of United States Supreme Court Justices. We have this obligation, without delay!"

RELATED

■ Trump pledges woman for court, pushes Senate to move on pick. **PAGE 12**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 18th birthday to Danielle Angela Banez. Birthday wishes from Daddy Danny and Mama Ella.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOMB

From Page 1

"their required training elsewhere" outside the Mariana Islands. The court further concluded that, "[w]hile it may be more convenient for the Marines to have these training facilities closer [to Guam], there is no evidence showing they *must* be."

An estimated 5,000 U.S. Marines and their families are set to be relocated from Okinawa to Guam as part of U.S. military treaty obligations under the U.S.-Japan Alliance Agreement. As part of that agreement, it is being proposed that the Marines will conduct live-fire training in some islands of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The court's decision rejected a challenge by the Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani', PåganWatch and the Center for Biological Diversity—represented by Earthjustice—to the environmental impact statement that the U.S. Navy prepared for the relocation. The groups sued in federal court in 2016, claiming that the Navy violated the National Environmental Policy Act when it failed to disclose the impacts of Guam-based Marines training with artillery, mortars, rockets, amphibious assaults, attack helicopters and warplanes on Tinian and Pagan and subjecting Pagan to ship-to-shore shelling and aerial bombardment.

In ruling for the Navy, the court relied on the Navy's claims that Marines stationed in Guam do not need to conduct that highly destructive training in the CNMI to perform their national security mission.

"The court in its decision [Friday] accepted the Navy's word that Guam-based Marines don't need to bomb the islands of Tinian and Pågan," said Earthjustice lawyer David Henkin, who represented the community groups. "The Navy claimed Marines can conduct highly destructive live-fire training elsewhere, rather than destroy the lives of Americans who live on Tinian, and rather than turn Pagan into a war zone, rendering it uninhabitable. If the Navy proceeds with plans to bomb those islands anyway, it will have a lot of explaining to do."

The Navy promised the court that it will prepare a separate EIS—called the CNMI Joint Military Training—to disclose the impacts of proposed training on Tinian and Pagan. The Navy issued a draft CJMT EIS in 2015, but withdrew the draft in February 2016 in response to an outpouring of public protest. The Navy initially promised to release a revised draft CJMT EIS by March 2017, with the promised release date then slipping to late 2018 or early 2019. To date, the Navy has yet to release its revised plans for training in the CNMI.

"Pagan is too beautiful to bomb," said Cinta Kaipat of PaganWatch. "We will not allow the Navy to turn our homeland into a live-fire training wasteland."

"We are not giving up on hope, and we will continue to fight to save our islands," said Juanita Mendiola of Tinian Women Association. "This decision makes clear that the Navy has no justification to engage in destructive activities on the islands of Pagan and Tinian that would sacrifice our children's futures."

Tinian is a small island with a population of just over 3,000. Currently, the only live-fire training conducted there is limited to a sniper target range. No live-fire training currently takes place on Pagan.

"Our islands and the ocean that surrounds them are our cultural legacy," said Gen Cabrera of Guardians of Gani'. "We will endeavor, by all means, to continue to practice our heritage of responsible stewardship."

Japan has pledged $6 billion to support the relocation. ***(PR)***

Finance, Localgov tie up for easy, secure tax filing process

The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue & Taxation is officially announcing a new partnership with Localgov, an online tax collection and compliance platform. The partnership will focus on transitioning the Commonwealth's tax collection from a manual system to a streamlined and secure digital process.

Because of the current pandemic situation, DRT was searching for a solution that could digitize and simplify the manual tax collection operation. DRT wanted to shorten lines and have less in-person contact while still providing service to taxpayers.

As of Sept. 18, 2020, taxpayers are now able to file and pay their business gross revenue tax, bar tax, and hotel occupancy tax through Localgov's user-friendly online portal on the official Department of Finance website *www.dof.gov.mp.*

Other developments coming soon are the online "Business License Application" portal and online payments for Excise Tax.

"Digital transactions are faster, more convenient, and are becoming the preferred method for citizens to access government services. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and I commend the Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation, for their hard work in moving the CNMI forward in online access and convenience for residents and businesses," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

From the comfort of their homes, CNMI taxpayers experience significant time-savings when using Localgov by eliminating travel, wait time, and repetitive paperwork. Localgov's auto-filing feature saves taxpayer filing history, enabling quick automatic filings and 100% secure and traceable payments through ACH or credit card payments.

Business owners and taxpayers will be able to log on to the Localgov portal from any device and file their taxes. The Commonwealth will receive an immediate record of their filing while the software completes the transaction automatically. CNMI will receive payments of those funds daily.

"Our constituents will benefit from having a secure, transparent, and digital way to file and pay taxes. Localgov is working with Finance to cultivate trust and satisfaction among our community. We are proud to deliver a modern and easy-to-use service to our taxpayers," said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

With the support of DOF, Localgov is helping to build trusted relationships with local businesses and constituents that will bring the community together and give the CNMI tools to support economic growth.

"We are honored to partner with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to transform and digitalize their tax collection and compliance" said Localgov CEO Jason Perry. "By taking the paper out of the process, Localgov can decrease the time it takes to collect taxes by up to 95% while supporting business satisfaction. With significant time and resources freed up, CNMI government leaders can put that time and energy back into growing their thriving community." ***(PR)***

Finance gets a $5M disaster loan, expects $16.2M reimbursements

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig recently disclosed that he is receiving $5 million in community disaster loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is expecting $16.2 million more reimbursement from FEMA.

Atalig expects the FEMA reimbursement to total $10 million in the first batch. He said he is also receiving the initial $5 million from FEMA's community disaster loan, which has been approved.

Atalig said that, in the early stages of the COVID-19 Task Force responding to the pandemic, a lot of resources were used. The FEMA reimbursement will cover those expenses but about $6.2 million will be due to the CNMI's Super Typhoon Yutu expenses.

"Keep in mind, all these reimbursements are actual dollars out of our general fund. And so these reimbursements are for activities that we obviously couldn't pay with the general fund because it was used to take care of these disasters. Therefore these reimbursement coming in will be reinstating different accounts that I have to access. Those are all coming in from the pipeline," he said.

Man who cooked 'ice' gets 3-year sentence

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man who pleaded guilty to making methamphetamine or "ice" was sentenced to prison for up to three years.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Rick Urumelog Omar Jr. to a total of 36 months in prison last Wednesday for his involvement in manufacturing "ice"' by using the 'bake and shake' method.

However, Omar was given credit for time-served and will be placed on supervised release for three years upon completing his sentence.

Omar pleaded guilty on May 4, 2018, to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and distribution of methamphetamine where a child was present.

David Banes represented Omar at the sentencing hearing while assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the federal government.

According to court documents, The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency was alerted to the conspiracy after several individuals purchased large quantities of cold medicines that contained one of ice's active ingredient, pseudoephedrine, at local pharmacies.

The prosecution said Omar and his co-defendants, Vincent David Cabrera Jr., Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., and Sidney Cappele Kani, along with others, conspired to manufacture and distribute the meth.

The federal court has also sentenced both Cabrera and Repeki to 15 year' while Kani was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Fishing vessel runs aground on reef in Yap

COLONIA, Yap—Around 2am on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, a fishing boat operated by Liancazazazheng Overseas Fishery Co., Ltd and owned by Huang, Shau-Chou went aground at the mouth of Peelaek Channel near Gagil and Tomil in Yap with nine crew members on board. No injuries were reported but the vessel was taking on water, according to Paul Ayin, general manager of the Yap Fishing Authority, who received the first call.

Following established COVID-19 protocols, to minimize contact, the crew transferred themselves to their life raft and were towed to safety where they disembarked at Yap Fishing Authority dock into a cordoned off section of the dock on the eastern side of Colonia.

At this time, it is reported that there is no spill of any type of hazardous materials, but the boat has 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of fuel on board. A salvage team is transferring the fuel into containers to minimize the risk of a spill. In addition, there is an estimated 4 tons of catch on board.

A team from the Department of Health Services wearing personal protective equipment performed COVID-19 testing and other related procedures. Yap has no cases of COVID-19 and is taking every precaution to ensure the public's safety. Temporary housing has been set up to isolate them from the public near the old YFTI facility. The departure date of the captain and crew is pending the completion of the ongoing investigation.

Yap State Gov. Henry FaIan said, "I want to assure the citizens of Yap that everything is being done to ensure the safety and security of our island from the COVID-19 virus. We are very grateful that there were no injuries and no fuel or oil spill, but we are taking every precaution to isolate the crew and test them for the virus while preventing contact with local workers. The Health Crisis Task Force has been working for several months to prepare and contain the virus if and when it arrives. The members of the task force have been thoroughly trained and are acting quickly and efficiently alongside the other agencies to mitigate the situation."

Liancheng works with Yap Fishing Authority to operate fishing boats from Yap Fishing Authority dock. The catch is flown out once a week on Asia Pacific Air. This is the second time this vessel has visited the state.

In addition to Yap Fishing Authority and OHS, the other responding agencies are Yap State Department of Resource & Development, Office of Planning & Budget, Department Public Works & Transportation, Yap Health Crisis Task Force, Public Safety and the Environmental Protection Agency. ***(PR)***

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR REAPPOINTMENT OF INCUMBENT MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The current term of office of United States Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands is due to expire on June 10, 2021. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new four-year term.

The duties of a magistrate judge in this court include the following: (1) conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trying and disposing of misdemeanor cases; (3) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings delegated by the District Judge; and (4) trying and disposing of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic jurisdiction of a United States Magistrate Judge is described in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

Written comments from members of the bar and the public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the panel for reappointment by the court. Comments must be received by **October 30, 2020.** Send written comments to:

Amanda Hayes, Chambers Administrator
U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
United States Courthouse, 1671 Gualo Rai Road, Third Floor
P.O. Box 500687
Saipan, MP 96950

NESTING SEA TURTLES
ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION!
Illegal poaching is the largest threat to sea turtles in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Each year, about 12 turtles nest on our beaches and this number continues to decline.
Sea turtles are protected under federal and local laws.
It is illegal to harvest, harass, trap, collect, import, export, or sell sea turtle products. Help protect CNMI's sea turtle population by reporting illegal activities and refusing to consume or wear turtle products.
SAVE A SEA TURTLE BY CALLING OUR HOTLINE.
670-287-8537
Anonymous reports welcomed for poached turtles, suspicious behaviors, illegal products, injured/dead turtles, and tracks or nests.

NMI awarded more than $1.7M for energy projects

The Department of the Interior has awarded the $1.7 million in Capital Improvement Project funding for the CNMI through the Office of Insular Affairs' Energizing Insular Communities program for fiscal year 2020.

Doug Domenech, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs, informed Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres about the grant award, totaling $1,706,075, last Wednesday.

"Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I are very appreciative of our partnership with…Domenech and [OIA], and this funding will help our government's goal of being energy-efficient and to assist the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with their infrastructural needs. We thank him and his team for their continued support of our priorities. We also want to recognize our grants administrator, Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr., and his team for their hard work with our agencies on these opportunities to improve our energy infrastructure," said Torres.

The EIC funding will be allocated for six high-priority energy projects:

■ $672,000 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for Phase III of its Pre-Pay Meter Conversion Project

■ $403,500 to CUC to improve efficiencies in power generation through SCADA technologies

■ $301,700 to CUC for the acquisition of solar engineering master professional services

■ $212,920 to the Department of Public Works for Energy Efficiency/Energy Star rebate programs

■ $77,530 to the Office of the Governor to integrate energy efficient and renewable energy for Operational Resiliency: Cool Roof System

■ $38,425 to the Women's Affairs Office to integrate energy efficient and renewable energy for Operational Resiliency: Cool Roof System, LED lighting and window reflective film. ***(PR)***

Woman pleads guilty to stealing a cellphone

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who pleaded guilty to theft of a cellphone last Tuesday was sentenced to one-year suspended prison sentence.

Evelyn Tricia Michael Singa, 32, pleaded guilty to theft last Tuesday before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Kim-Tenorio sentenced Singa to a term of imprisonment of one year, all suspended, and will be placed on supervised probation for a period of one year.

Singa was also ordered to pay a fine of $100, including court costs, and probation fees before the expiration of her probationary period that starts this week.

Singa is also prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with the victim, Victor Taitingfong Jr., during her probation.

Kim-Tenorio also ordered Singa to perform 40 hours of community service at a rate of no fewer than eight hours per month. Singa must also complete any recommended counseling and must not commit any felony or misdemeanor while under probation or it would be grounds for revocation of her probation.

Court documents state that Singa stole Taitingfong's Blu cellphone back on Jan. 3.

COTA awarded $351,000 under FTA Emergency Relief Program

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has been awarded $351,000 under the Federal Transit Authority's Emergency Relief Program for transit systems affected by major disasters that occurred in 2018.

Earlier this year, COTA applied for a grant opportunity under the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program (Emergency Relief Program) to states, territories, local governmental authorities, Indian tribes, and other FTA recipients affected by major declared disasters occurring in calendar year 2018. COTA was one of the seven grant applications from around the United States awarded these disaster relief funds.

"COTA continues to be a proactive agency that responds directly to natural disasters and emergencies. From typhoons in 2018 to this year's COVID-19 pandemic, the work that COTA's drivers, dispatchers, operators, and administrative staff do during critical times assist many of our residents get from place to place safely. Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I commend special assistant Alfreda [Camacho] and her team for their hard work," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a statement last Thursday.

The FTA's Emergency Relief Program provides FTA with primary responsibility for reimbursing public transportation emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or major disaster that affects public transportation systems.

COTA played a vital role during Super Typhoon Yutu's pre-disaster and post recovery efforts transporting a total of 679 individuals to and from designated shelters throughout Saipan.

"Anyone who has experienced Super Typhoon Yutu will never forget the devastation this natural disaster left our Commonwealth just about two years ago. We can all agree that thinking back to this time seems like it happened yesterday," said Camacho. "By actively applying for federal grants, we here at COTA continue to do our part by working together to ensure the validity and sustainability of this public transportation agency remains intact for the CNMI especially as we continue to work towards the expansion of these services to the islands of Tinian and Rota." ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 I Fax: (670) 664-2408 I Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ20-GOV-116

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A/E SERVICES FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF THE ROTA LANDFILL, SONGSONG VILLAGE, ROTA MP

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Qualified Engineers/Consultants to provide engineering services for the Assessment and Preliminary design for the Rota Landfill in Tatagcho, Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant Funding under the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the Capital Improvement Office located in the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or may request for a copy via email (attn.: Viola Deleon Guerrero at violamarie.cip@gmail.com) during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) beginning September 14, 2020. Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and submittal requirements. A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted via zoom on **Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m ChST.** All interested parties must submit a notice of intent to participate in the pre-proposal conference by contacting Ms. Viola Deleon Guerrero @ violamarie.cip@gmail.com. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Viola Deleon Guerrero via email @ violamarie.cip@gmail.com or fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than **4:00 p.m. ChST Friday, September 25, 2020.**

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms and shall not exceed 20 pages excluding appendices. Only CNMI professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered for this project. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

A. Qualifications in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (25%)
B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (30%)
C. Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (30%)
D. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)
E. Fee - (0%)

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked **"RFQ20-GOV-116, ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR THE ROTAL LANDFILL"** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) and must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., October 13, 2020.** Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on October 13, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than October 13, 2020**, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply by **no later than October 22, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2021 as follows:

Statement of Goals and Priorities
[Fiscal Year 2021]

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

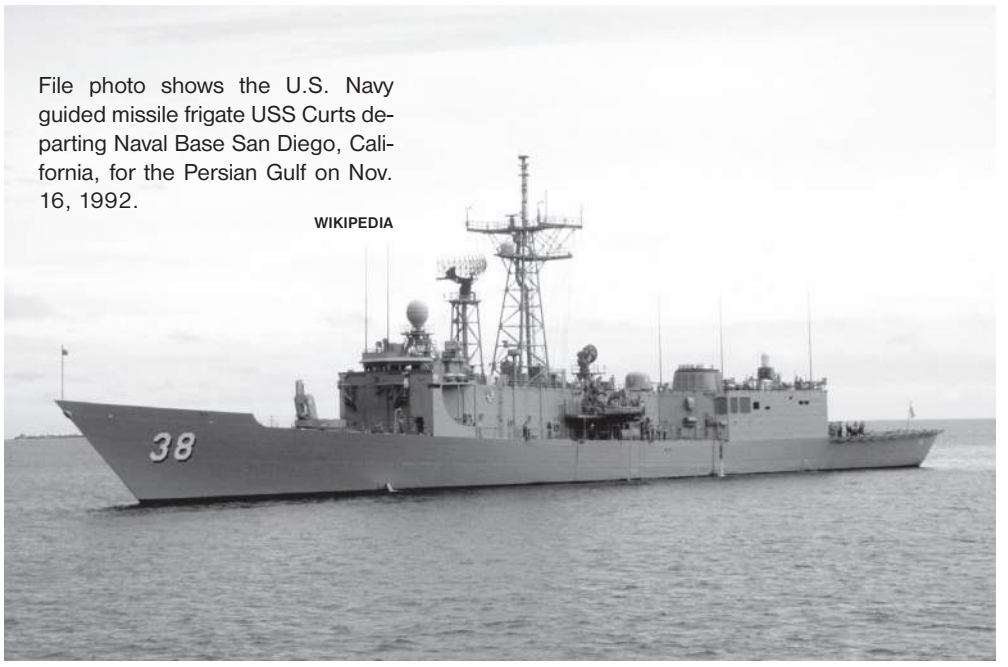
Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S.* ***Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the* ***U.S. Department of Education (DOE)****/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the* ***Social Security Administration (SSA)****.*

Valiant Shield to sink ship in Pacific Ocean in exercise



File photo shows the U.S. Navy guided missile frigate USS Curts departing Naval Base San Diego, California, for the Persian Gulf on Nov. 16, 1992.

WIKIPEDIA

ASAN, Guam—Valiant Shield 2020 is slated to include one sinking exercise, or SINKEX, with the environmentally clean decommissioned hulk of the Oliver Hazard Perry- class frigate, ex-*USS Curts*.

A SINKEX generally involves air, surface, and undersea military units conducting live-fire training at sea against a physical target.

SINKEXs give participants an opportunity to gain proficiency and confidence in their weapons and systems through realistic training that cannot be duplicated in simulators.

Each SINKEX is conducted in strict compliance with applicable U.S. environmental laws, regulations, and permit requirements to minimize potential harm to the environment. In addition, each SINKEX vessel undergoes a rigorous cleaning process, in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, that includes removal of all liquid polychlorinated biphenyls from transformers, large capacitors, and small capacitors to the greatest extent practical, and all trash, floatable materials, mercury or fluorocarbon containing materials, and readily detachable solid PCB items.

Petroleum is cleaned from the vessel's tanks, pipes and reservoirs. The Navy also complies with documentation requirements to track components containing liquid PCBs and solid shipboard materials potentially containing PCBs.

SINKEXs are conducted in water at least 1,000 fathoms (6,000 feet) deep and at least 50 nautical miles from land, only after the area has been surveyed for the presence of people, marine vessels, aircraft, and marine species. SINKEXs are fully compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and a general permit under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act.

When conducted within waters surrounding Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, SINKEXs are positioned outside the footprint of the Mariana Trench National Monument.

This training event will enhance the Joint Force's combat readiness and lethal capability, enabling forces to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OVR CAP meetings

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will not attend any external meetings beginning today, Sept. 21, 2020 to Friday, Sept. 25, 2020. During this time period, OVR will be working on the Corrective Action Plan Report from the FY 2019 Monitoring Report.

For concerns or matters that require immediate attention, call OVR executive director Maryann Borja-Arriola at (670) 287-6609. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude quake hits Saipan

At 11:32am on Sept. 20, 2020, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 248 kilometers north of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CRM) BOARD AND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PDAC) JOINT TRAINING

In conformity with the Open Government Act, this is to give notice that the CRM Agency Board, along with the Office of Planning and Development's PDAC will engage in a joint training for two half-day sessions on September 22 and 23, 2020 from 8am to 12pm.

The purpose of this training is to build capacities on policy-making, information sharing, and fostering commitments to support smart building and wise developments in the CNMI. While our programs have differences in policies, permitting processes, development impact analysis, as well as land uses and criteria, this knowledge exchange will allow further discussion on shared challenges and leverage opportunities of our similar but diverse coastal management experiences.

Please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 or email permitting@dcrm.gov.mp or the Office of Planning and Development at 488-1221 or info@opd.gov.mp if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the upcoming joint training.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

/s/ Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
Director
Office of Planning and Development

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 006 E 01 containing an area of approximately 2,877 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Unity Trade Service, Inc. The lists of officers for Unity Trade Service, Inc., are Gaudencio C. Macalinao, as President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, as Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, as Secretary and Ronel Macalinao, as Authorized Representative.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of auto repair shop, sheet metal works, iron & machine shop & other related issues.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, September 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA NU INTENSIÓN NI PARA U MA'ATKILA TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. Maseha håyi na pitsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerått siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion madimånda na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 006 E 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 2,877 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para i rinikonosimientu.

ii. I prospective lessee i Unity Trade Service, Inc. I manmembru yan manehånti siha gi Unity Trade Service, Inc., si Gaudencio C. Macalinao, komu Presidenti, si Jacinta M. Macalinao, komu Sigundu Presidenti, si Luzviminda M. Tolentino, komu Sekritåria yan si Ronel Macalinao, komu "Authorized Representative".

iii. I maproponi na atkilon mankonfotma yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot Ronel Macalinao.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt solamenti para operasion nu "auto repair shop", sheet metal work, iron" o sino "machine shop" yan otru manasosiåt na prublema.

I teman kuntråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durântin i tema magiha sigun gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi propiedåt yan i aplikåbli na putsientu nu "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwúngubwúng fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay ákkááw faluweer toulap iye e lo Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Iye re bwal ayoorai sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge lot 006 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 2,877 square meters, elápeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge unity Trade Service, Inc. List-al officers ngáli Unity Trade Service, Inc., nge Gaudencio C. Macalinao, bwe President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, bwe Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, bwe Sekkretóóriya me Ronel Macalinao, bwe Authorized Representative.

iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwol sángi Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli mwóghutughutúl auto repair shop, angaangil sheet metal, iron me machine shop me ákkááw mwóghutughut ikka e schuulong igha.

Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh atoll kkapasal abungubwungúl atkkilóón e lo reel "percentage" reel "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage" reel "Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel King's Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli atkkilóón iye rebwe atkkilaay me Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Settembre 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Supreme Court icon, is dead. The Senate should wait to replace her

The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg deprives the Supreme Court and the nation of a towering figure in the campaign to ensure equal justice under law. Her passing also creates an opportunity for President Donald Trump, who already has appointed two justices, to name a replacement in the waning months of his term.

For the good of the country and the court, the Republican-controlled Senate should treat any Trump nominee, however well-qualified, the same way the Senate treated President Obama's nominee to replace Justice Antonin Scalia in 2016. They should not act on any nomination until after the president elected in November is inaugurated, whether it be Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden.

Even before she became a judge, Ginsburg had spearheaded a push to transform how the law viewed discrimination on the basis of sex. She continued that witness after joining the court in 1993, writing the majority opinion in 1996 when the court ruled that the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the law meant that the Virginia Military Institute could not exclude women. Her role as a trailblazer and exemplar for women and a defender of women's rights cannot be overstated.

As the court moved right, she remained a champion of a vision of the law and the Constitution that promoted democracy rather than constricting it. When the conservative majority gutted an important provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, Ginsburg wrote a powerful dissent that mocked the majority's quixotic confidence that federal protections for minorities at the ballot box were no longer necessary. Throwing out federal scrutiny of potentially discriminatory election practices because it had worked, she said, was like "throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Like Scalia, her longtime friend and colleague, Ginsburg died during a presidential election year marked by divisiveness, cultural conflict and partisan acrimony. When Senate Majority

See RUTH on Next Page

©2020 KING FEATURES JUDGE
Y'KNOW IF BLACK PEOPLE WOULD OBEY THE LAW THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS.*
* THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY SOME OF THE SAME PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO OBEY MASK MANDATES.

Want to honor Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg? Show up to vote Nov. 3

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
Los Angeles Times

So Ruth Bader Ginsburg is dead, and all I can think about is my sunflowers.

They were tall and bright at the beginning of the week. Bees swarmed to their stamen, eager for pollen. The yellow petals shined, the heads ranged in size from my fist to a flour tortilla. Their strong stalks needed no stakes.

I sprouted them in May, when the Supreme Court justice secretly began chemotherapy. I planted the seedlings in July, when she announced her latest health battle to the public.

The sunflowers survived the slugs that invaded my garden and wasted nearly everything else. They weathered the record-breaking heat of August, the smoke-filled skies of September.

But as I drove up to my Orange County home late Friday afternoon, with news that Ginsburg had passed away at 87 of cancer lighting up my cellphone, I noticed my sunflowers now drooped.

Their end was inevitable, like the rest of us. But their demise was sudden, unexpected, far too quick and left me with nothing to take their place so soon.

2020 strikes again.

It's a year where rock bottom seems as far away as a coronavirus vaccine. Wrecked economy, nearly 200,000 dead due to COVID-19, continued police violence, sports and schools a shadow of themselves.

It's only mid-September.

This one hurts.

I wasn't part of the RGB cult—I pray to no member of the executive, judicial or legislative branch. But I always had fond feelings for her. She was confirmed in the summer of 1993, when I was about to enter high school and her confirmation hearings dominated the broadcast news.

I knew nothing then of the personal history that made her a legend—the constant rocks she threw to break glass ceilings. Her immigrant father. The sexism endured, insults absorbed, pioneering cases argued.

All I knew was that I saw just a little of myself in this woman on television—big glasses, seemingly meek, but ready to throw down in the name of justice.

Ginsburg showed me the power of working from a disadvantage—the more they underestimate you, the more satisfying the victory. Her 22-year battle against various cancers was an inspiration for someone who lost his mother just last year to ovarian cancer.

I especially loved Ginsburg's friendship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia, her polar opposite in nearly every way, from faith to build to politics. If they were able to be pals, I always wondered, the rest of us could as well—and should.

But that possibility now looks more distant than ever before.

On social media and in my phone, I especially see my Black and brown friends, men and women alike, mourn even more so than my white ones.

In an era where the United States is more diverse than ever before, it looks as if the Supreme Court will tilt even righter and whiter.

There seems to be no hope as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell licks his lips in anticipation of voting through a replacement for Ginsburg's seat. And this is what angers the Latino part of me more than anything.

He's the epitome of a convenenciero.

A self-serving man.

That's all politicians, ultimately. But McConnell is a special kind of convenenciero.

In 2016, he blocked President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to fill Scalia's seat, arguing a decision as momentous as that shouldn't happen during a presidential election year.

It was a decision I actually agreed with, but only if McConnell would've agreed to do the same if a Republican president was in the Oval Office.

And here we are.

In my Mexican world, convenencieros are a special breed of bad. It's the politicians who looked away from what's right for their own benefit. The holier-than-thou aunts and uncles who love to hate even as their own children do the exact sin they accuse others of.

People often shun convenencieros as the cancers to society that they are.

Now, convenencieros hold the power to shape the Supreme Court for generations to come.

Despair now fills my social media timelines. Can anything possibly go good in this annus horribilis of 2020?

That brings me back to those sunflowers.

The bees did their work and pollinated the flowers. Hundreds of seeds are still developing; they'll be ready around November.

I always let them scatter across the ground, then cover them in soil and let them rest through the spring.

Next summer, most of them will sprout up from the soil. I will let some grow, but give away the majority of the seedlings.

This will be the life of Ginsburg. Except don't wait for next year to see if her seeds will sprout.

Your germination date is Nov. 3.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Anti-mask mob is as stupid, selfish as it gets amid COVID pandemic

By FABIOLA SANTIAGO
Miami Herald

Fabiola Santiago is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email her at fsantiago@miamiherald.com.*

Don't chalk up the misbehavior to youthful tomfoolery.

The flash mob of young anti-maskers who aggressively pranced through a Fort Lauderdale Target this week harassing mask-wearing customers are stupid, selfish—and dangerous to the public.

"Take off your masks! Take it off! Take it off!" most of the dozen or so protesters shouted, taunting customers as if they were in a bar reacting to a bawdy wet T-shirt contest.

"Take your mask off, this is America!"

You can hear a customer mumble on video: "F___ idiots.

The stunt also didn't go down well with Twisted Sister lead singer Dee Snider, who didn't care for the group blasting their hit song "We're Not Gonna Take It" while ripping their masks off.

He took to social media to condemn the anti-maskers.

"These selfish a___- do not have my permission or blessing to use my song for their moronic cause," Snider tweeted.

Oh, Floriduh again

Oh, Florida nitwits, here you go again making national headlines. "Again?" you want to say—and move on.

But we can't afford the disregard for safety measures in the middle of a pandemic that, despite the happy talk of "waning" statistics, is still very much with us in Florida.

For the loved ones of the 13,000-plus Floridians who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and the 674,456 known Floridians infected with the coronavirus, the actions of this group weren't funny at all.

They ought to be officially banned from Target—and charged with something, at least a civil citation, that forces them to appear before a judge, whether in juvenile court or otherwise.

But neither Target nor police acted quickly enough to protect shoppers from the taunting and to apprehend protesters, which included adults who should know better.

By the time police showed up, they had fled, and that's the excuse authorities used to not even make a house call to people who put the public at risk—and advertised their intentions on Facebook.

One of the ring leaders, Cristina Gomez, posted an invite on the social media site and live-streamed the group's misguided idea of anti-mask activism.

"We're taking back our freedom," she wrote, adding a picture of the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, with a cancel stripe across his face.

It's not Gomez's first rodeo with anti-mask activism.

In a GoFundMe page, she says she and her mother, Linda Ortiz, were arrested in West Palm Beach for refusing to wear a mask in a store.

People didn't buy very much of their crap.

They only raised $245.

Broward County officials weren't amused—and they did take action.

The county fined the Target at Coral Ridge Mall for not enforcing the mask law, tracked down protesters, and mailed them citations for violating public health regulations in a pandemic.

Not about choice, but politics

"It's all about choice," you can hear one of the male protesters holler on a video.

No, it's not.

If it were, they wouldn't be bothering mask wearers who've made their choice.

It's about politics—as the "Make America Great Again" T-shirt of one ring leader makes it known.

They're just following their maximum leader.

They're boisterous, rude, and ignorant, just like him.

And they too love the notoriety, which is what they're really after, even if their uncaring behavior costs people their lives.

I hate giving them any more publicity, but their stupidity is an opportunity to remind the rest of us who want to stay COVID-free not to let our guard down when we leave home.

Although there's a downward trend from the record-breaking surges of cases in June and July, Florida's Department of Health on Thursday confirmed 3,255 additional cases of COVID-19.

That's no small number, and it was higher than earlier tallies during the week.

And although there is "guarded optimism" among experts, they also say a severe resurgence in the fall could materialize quickly.

With the reopening of indoor dining, bars, schools and college campuses—all places where people congregate in close quarters—it would be foolish to not to wear a mask.

All it takes to get pregnant is not using birth control that one time.

All it takes to become infected with COVID-19 is being close to a carrier not wearing a mask.

Workplace facial screening is a bad idea

By ANTHONY DIMAURO
Tribune News Service

Anthony DiMauro (on Twitter @AnthonyMDiMauro) is a New York-based writer. His work has appeared in Bloomberg, Business Insider, Slate *and elsewhere. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by* The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Artificial intelligence has been on the rise in workplaces for at least the past decade. From consumer algorithms to quantum computing, AI's uses have grown in type and scope.

One of the more recent advances in AI technologies is the ability to read emotions through facial and behavioral analysis. While the emotional AI technology has largely been implemented in marketing campaigns and health care, a growing number of high-profile companies are using it in hiring decisions.

Companies should stop this immediately.

There are a number of risks associated with this technology. One of the more troubling is the apparent racial bias—one that assigns more negative emotions to Black people than white people, even when they are smiling.

For example, Microsoft's Face API software scored Black faces as three times more contemptuous than white faces. This bias is obviously harmful in a number of ways, but it's especially devastating to non-white professionals who are disadvantaged in their ability to secure a job and progress within their field.

Any workplace that uses a hiring algorithm that disproportionately sees Black and brown people as worse emotionally will further drive workplace inequalities and discriminatory treatment.

According to a Washington Post report, more than 100 companies are currently using emotional AI, and this technology has already been used to assess millions of job applicants. Among the top-tier companies deploying emotional AI are Hilton, Dunkin' Donuts, IBM and the Boston Red Sox.

Emotional AI recognition has been estimated to be at least a $20 billion market.

The technology uses facial recognition to analyze emotional and cognitive ability. Generally, an interviewee will answer preselected questions during a recorded video interview, and be assessed by the AI algorithm. The assessment provides a grade or score on various characteristics, including verbal skills, facial movements, and even emotional characteristics—all of which aim to predict how likely the candidate will succeed in a position before taking next steps.

Supporters of the technology argue that it removes human prejudice from the equation. But replacing human bias with an artificial one can't be the solution.

Moreover, companies tend to use emotional AI to screen for a very limited data set to decide who gets marked as "employable." These limited data sets usually favor majority groups while ignoring minority ones. For example, if someone's first language isn't English and they speak with an accent or if an applicant is disabled, they will more likely be earmarked as less employable.

The technology can also work to the disadvantage of women.

For starters, much of the AI technology fails to properly identify women—even iconic women such as Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. Many examples have shown that, particularly in fields that are already dominated by men, women applicants are downgraded and less likely to be recommended than male applicants.

There are a plethora of other anecdotes that highlight the biases of emotional AI, even outside the workplace. These include cameras that identify Asian faces as blinking and software that misgenders those with darker skin.

Of course, companies have been warned of the ongoing biases and have so far ignored them; many still use software like HireVue, which Princeton professor of computer science Arvind Narayanan described as "a bias perpetuation engine." Research institute AI Now, based at New York University, has called for a complete ban on emotional AI tech.

Until emotional AI is shown to be free of racial and gender biases, it's unsafe for use in a world already struggling to overcome inequalities. If companies want to assist in that struggle, they should end the use of emotional AI in the workplace.

RUTH

From Page 8

Leader Mitch McConnell refused to allow the Senate to consider any Obama nominee, this editorial page criticized him for his argument that the seat must be left unfulfilled so that the voters could have a say in the selection of the next justice. We called it "self-serving sophistry."

McConnell's rationale for blocking consideration of Judge Merrick Garland, Obama's exquisitely well-qualified choice to replace Scalia, should lead him to delay any action on a Trump nominee. Not surprisingly, McConnell isn't displaying such consistency. On Friday night, he said that "President Trump's nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the United States Senate," although he didn't specify whether a vote would be taken before the election or in a lame-duck session. (McConnell disingenuously suggested, as he has before, that 2020 is different from 2016 because the Senate and the White House are controlled by the same party.)

Under the Constitution, Trump has the right to nominate a replacement for Ginsburg, just as Obama had the right to try to replace Scalia. A president's constitutional authority does not decline as the end of a term approaches, like a light with a dimmer switch. But there are several reasons for the Senate not to act.

Scalia died in February of 2016, and Obama nominated Garland on March 16, giving the Senate ample time to consider his nomination for a lifetime seat on the nation's highest court and conduct an appropriate public vetting. It is now September, and senators are in campaign mode. With the pre-election recess fast approaching, senators can't reasonably argue that there is enough time for a thorough confirmation process.

But even if there were time, other considerations argue for delay. The country is more sharply divided than in 2016, thanks in large part to the demagoguery of the incumbent president, who has fanned the flames of bigotry at a time of a reckoning over America's legacy of racism.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, faces a crisis of confidence. Despite the admirable efforts of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to build consensus, the court is widely viewed as a partisan institution. That is partly the result of the way Democratic appointees often vote one way and Republican appointees another, but it also reflects the poisonous partisanship that has infected the Supreme Court confirmation process. Few nominees of either party can expect to be approved by overwhelming bipartisan majorities, as Scalia and Ginsburg were.

Senate action on a Trump nominee so close to the election—and in the shadow of the Senate's refusal in 2016 to act on Obama's nominee—would exacerbate partisan divisions and plunge the court even further into partisan politics. So, too, would confirming a justice in a lame duck session if Trump does not win reelection.

There is another way: Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine suggested before the announcement of Ginsburg's death that it might be too close to the election for a confirmation vote on a Supreme Court nominee. If even a few more Republican senators prudently recognize the need for delay, the country and the court will be better off.

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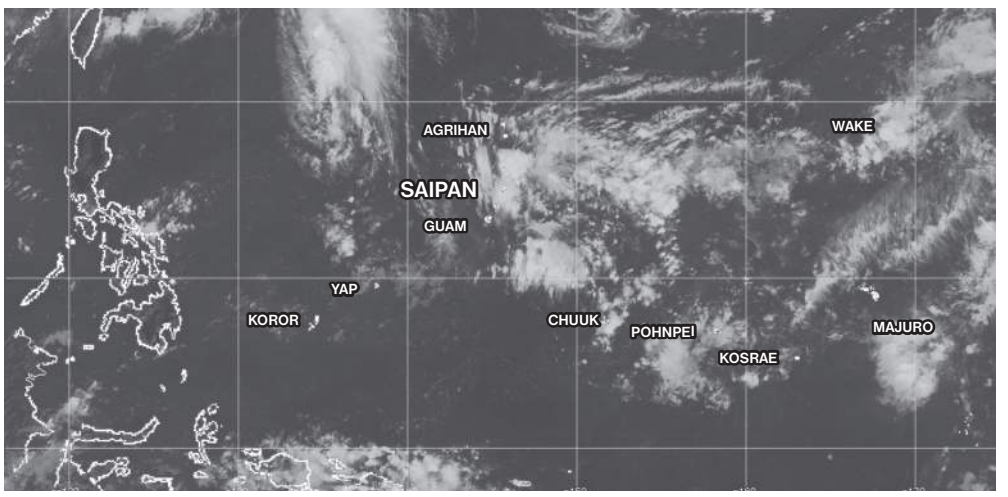
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:09 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler weather radar shows a line of showers moving through Tinian and Saipan at this time. Otherwise the radar indicates just isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a bit of energy from the north.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:37 AM	9:28 PM	-
Tuesday	10:39 AM	10:19 PM	-
Wednesday	11:40 AM	11:13 PM	-
Thursday	12:40 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 AM	1:37 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Rain	75° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	88° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Busan	Rain	79° / 68°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 58°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Washington, DC	Rain	70° / 60°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:21 AM	LOW TIDE	0.11
10:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
4:41 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80
10:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.98

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

United adds antimicrobial spray to extensive cabin-cleaning measures

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced Friday that it is adding Zoono Microbe Shield, an EPA registered antimicrobial coating that forms a long-lasting bond with surfaces and inhibits the growth of microbes, to the airline's already rigorous safety and cleaning procedures. United is currently applying the coating each week on more than 30 aircraft to seats, tray tables, armrests, overhead bins, lavatories and crew stations and expects to add this latest measure to its entire mainline and express fleet before the end of the year.

The antimicrobial coating, created by Zoono Group Limited, a New Zealand Company and distributed in the USA by MicroSonic Solutions, will serve as an added layer of protection that complements the airline's existing, daily electrostatic spraying regimen before departing flights.

"This long-lasting, antimicrobial spray adds an extra level of protection on our aircraft to help better protect our employees and customers," said Toby Enqvist, United's chief customer officer. "As part of our layered approach to safety, antimicrobials are an effective complement to our hospital-grade HEPA air filtration system, mandatory mask policy for customers and daily electrostatic spraying. We've overhauled our policies and procedures a and continue to implement new, innovative solutions that deliver a safer onboard experience."

The Zoono Microbe Shield works by bonding to surfaces and creating a protective layer that resembles microscopic pins once dry, which rupture cell walls and membranes when microbes come in contact with them. The chemical is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Category IV, which is the lowest level of toxicity. During an aircraft's deep cleanings, United will use the NovaRover, which is designed to apply a super fine mist of the antimicrobial that coats all surfaces in a 12 -foot radius with a single spray. United will apply the antimicrobial to aircraft overnight every seven days using electrostatic sprayers to refresh and fortify the protective layer, while continuing to electrostatic spray disinfectant to the aircraft cabin before almost every departure.

"MicroSonic is proud to provide United with the most advanced application of antimicrobial protection for their aircraft," said Nick Federico, MicroSonic's president. "Our proprietary NovaRover system combined with Zoono Microbe Shield will deliver an additional effective layer of microbial protection, reassuring customers and crew that the environment inside United aircraft is [safer and cleaner]."

United is currently applying Zoono Microbe Shield on aircraft at Chicago O'Hare International Airport and expects to expand it to each of its six other hubs and approximately 200 U.S. airports where United aircraft remain overnight in the coming months. The airline plans to deploy NovaRovers at ten airports, including each of United's seven hubs as well as Boston, Cleveland and Las Vegas. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
United Airlines is adding Zoono Microbe Shield, an EPA registered antimicrobial coating that forms a long-lasting bond with surfaces and inhibits the growth of microbes, to the airline's already rigorous safety and cleaning procedures.

Trump backs proposed deal to keep TikTok operating in US

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump said Saturday he's given his "blessing" to a proposed deal that would see the popular video-sharing app TikTok partner with Oracle and Walmart and form a U.S. company.

Trump has targeted Chinese-owned TikTok for national security and data privacy concerns in the latest flashpoint in the rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. The president's support for a deal comes just a day after the Commerce Department announced restrictions that if put in place could eventually make it nearly impossible for TikTok's legions of younger fans to use the app.

Trump said if completed the deal would create a new company likely to be based in Texas.

"I have given the deal my blessing," he said. "If they get it done, that's great. If they don't, that's OK too."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN MP 96950
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-20
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01–02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 16, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Friday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann DeLeon Guerrero at joydlg@cpa.gov.mp no later than September 30, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-20."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 20, 2020, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 20, 2020, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS (W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030, *Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells"*,** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Trump pledges woman for court, pushes Senate to move on pick

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Saturday promised to put forth a female nominee in the coming week to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, pushing the Republican-controlled Senate to consider the pick without delay.

Taking the stage at a North Carolina rally to chants of "Fill that seat," the president said he would nominate his selection despite Democrats' objections. And, after conducting what he joked was a "very scientific poll" of the Fayetteville crowd as to whether supporters wanted a man or a woman, he declared the choice would be "a very talented, very brilliant woman."

He added that he did not yet know whom he would choose.

"We win an election and those are the consequences," said the president, who then seemed to signal that he'd be willing to accept a vote on his nominee during the lame duck period after the election. "We have a lot of time. We have plenty of time. We're talking about January 20th."

But one Republican senator already broke ranks. Maine's Susan Collins, who is in a tough reelection battle, said Saturday that she believed replacing Ginsburg should be the decision of the president who is elected Nov. 3. Three more defections from the GOP ranks would be needed to stop Trump's nominee from joining the court.

At stake is a seat held by a justice who was a champion of women's rights and spent her final years on the bench as the unquestioned leader of the court's liberal wing. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. vowed to call a vote for Trump's nominee, but Democrats countered that Republicans should follow the precedent that GOP legislators set in 2016 by refusing to consider a Supreme Court choice in the run-up to an election.

The impending clash over the vacant seat—when to fill it and with whom—scrambles the stretch run of a presidential race for a nation already reeling from the pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 people, left millions unemployed and heightened partisan tensions and anger.

McConnell pledged to Trump in a phone call Friday night to bring the choice to a vote though he has not said if it would be before the election. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said any selection should come after Nov. 3. "Voters should pick the president and the president should pick the justice to consider," he said.

The president this month added 20 more names to his roster of potential court nominees, and aides in recent days have focused on a short list heavy on female candidates, according to four White House aides and officials close to the process. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Those under close consideration for the high court include three women who are federal appeals court judges: Amy Coney Barrett, beloved among conservatives and an early favorite; Barbara Lagoa, who is Hispanic and comes from the battleground state of Florida; and Allison Jones Rushing, who clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas and for Neil Gorsuch, when the current Trump-appointed justice was an appeals court judge.

At least one man, appeals court Judge Amul Thapar, has also been under consideration. A McConnell ally from Kentucky, he has been screened by Trump's team for past openings and he would be the first Asian-American on the high court.

Ginsburg to be remembered with statue in her native Brooklyn

NEW YORK (AP)—A statue of late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be built in her native Brooklyn, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday.

Ginsburg died Friday of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer at age 87. A legal trailblazer and champion of women's rights, she became the high court's second female justice in 1993.

Cuomo, a Democrat, said that he'll appoint a commission to choose an artist and oversee the selection of a location for the statue.

In a statement, Cuomo said the statue will serve as a physical reminder of Ginsburg's "many contributions to the America we know today and as an inspiration for those who will continue to build on her immense body of work."

Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn in 1933 and grew up in the borough's Flatbush neighborhood. She first gained fame as a litigator for the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The governor said that Ginsburg "selflessly pursued truth and justice in a world of division, giving voice to the voiceless and uplifting those who were pushed aside by forces of hate and indifference."

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg does not need a seat on the Supreme Court to earn her place in the American history books," then-President Bill Clinton said when he announced her appointment. "She has already done that."

Homes burned as winds push California fire into desert floor

JUNIPER HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Strong afternoon winds intensified a wildfire burning for nearly two weeks in mountains northeast of Los Angeles, prompting authorities to issue new evacuation orders Saturday for desert communities that lost some homes a day earlier.

Meanwhile, officials were investigating the death of a firefighter on the lines of another Southern California wildfire that erupted earlier this month from a smoke-generating pyrotechnic device used by a couple to reveal their baby's gender.

The death occurred Thursday in San Bernardino National Forest as crews battled the El Dorado Fire about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, the U.S. Forest Service said in a statement.

In northern Los Angeles County, firefighters focused on protecting homes Saturday as increasingly erratic winds pushed the Bobcat Fire toward foothill communities in the Antelope Valley after churning all the way across the San Gabriel Mountains. An evacuation order was issued Saturday for all residents in that zone as the fire burned toward Wrightwood, a mountain community of 4,000, said fire spokesman Andrew Mitchell.

The fire grew to 142 square miles (368 square kilometers) on Saturday when winds pushed the flames into Juniper Hills.

Some residents fled as blowing embers sparked spot fires, hitting some homes but sparing others. Bridget Lensing feared her family's house was lost on Friday after seeing on Twitter that a neighbor's house three doors down went up in flames.

AP

The wind whips embers from the Joshua trees burned by the Bobcat Fire in Juniper Hills, Calif., Friday, Sept. 18, 2020.

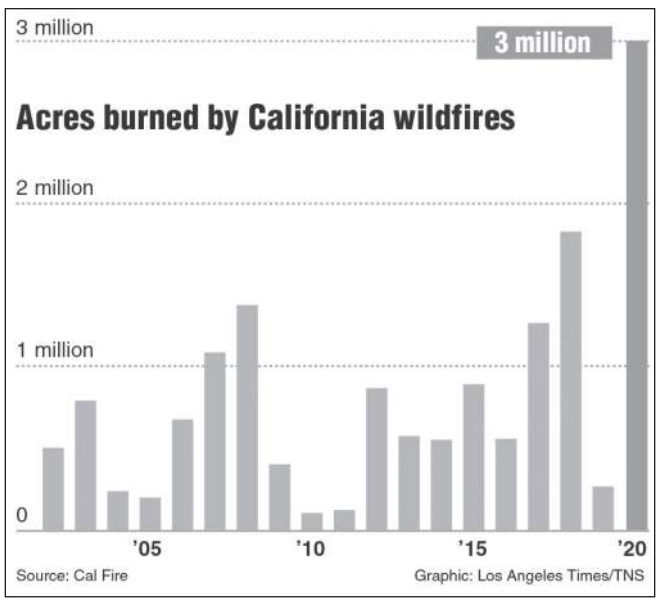
The house stood when she made her way back Saturday afternoon but her neighbors' houses in the remote community were burned to the ground.

"Everything around us is gone," she said.

The extent of the destruction in the area about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of downtown LA wasn't immediately clear. But, Los Angeles County park officials said the blaze destroyed the nature center at Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, a geological wonder that attracts some 130,000 visitors per year.

No injuries were reported.

On the south side of the Bobcat Fire, firefighters continued to protect Mount Wilson, which overlooks greater Los Angeles and has a historic observatory founded more than a century ago and numerous broadcast antennas serving Southern California.



The fire that started Sept. 6 had already doubled in size over the last week. It is 15% contained.

Officials said the fire has been challenging because it is burning in areas that have not burned in decades, and because the firestorms across California have limited resources. There were about 1,660 firefighters on the lines.

AP source: Envelope addressed to White House contained ricin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal officials intercepted an envelope addressed to the White House that contained the poison ricin, a U.S. law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The letter appeared to have originated in Canada, according to a statement from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which said it was assisting the FBI

The letter was intercepted at a government facility that screens mail addressed to the White House and President Donald Trump, the U.S. official said. A preliminary investigation indicated it tested positive for ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans, the U.S. official said.

The U.S. official was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Federal investigators were working to determine where the enveloped originated and who mailed it. The FBI, the Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service were leading the investigation.

In a statement, the FBI said agents were working to investigate "a suspicious letter received at a U.S. government mail facility" and that there is "no known threat to public safety."

A Navy veteran was arrested in 2018 and confessed to sending envelopes to Trump and members of his administration that contained the substance from which ricin is derived.

Authorities said the man, William Clyde Allen III, sent the envelopes with ground castor beans to the president, FBI Director Christopher Wray, along with then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, then-CIA Director Gina Haspel, Adm. John Richardson, who at the time was the Navy's top officer, and then-Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson. The letters were intercepted, and no one was hurt.

In 2014, a Mississippi man was sentenced to 25 years in prison after sending letters dusted with ricin to President Barack Obama and other officials.

World

Fewer cases in Melbourne, Korea; Japan travel up

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, has moved close to easing severe lockdown restrictions after recording only 14 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday.

It was the second day in a row new infections fell below 30, after 21 were reported on Saturday, the lowest daily number since June 19. There were also five deaths recorded Sunday.

Melbourne's lockdown restrictions are due to be eased next weekend when child care centers will be allowed to reopen and gatherings of up to five people from two different households will be permitted. But that depends on the rolling 14-day average of new cases being below 50.

With the lower numbers this weekend, the rolling average is now 36.2.

Victoria state Health Minister Jenny Mikakos praised residents for adhering to lockdown rules.

AP

Travelers wearing face masks crowd at Haneda airport in Tokyo Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, on the first day of the 4-day holiday.

"The huge sacrifices made by Victorians are saving many lives," Mikakos said. "The new cases keep trending down with your efforts.

"Thank you to all Victorians. You are amazing. We can do this," she said.

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison described an unexpected fall in Australia's unemployment rate to 9.3%—down 14 percentage points from its peak during the pandemic—as "pleasant encouragement."

The figures show about 400,000 Australians recently have returned to work.

"We just over half of the way back," Morrison told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Those who had been reduced to zero hours are starting to get their hours back. There's still a long way to go."

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Train stations and airports in Japan are filled with people traveling over the "Silver Week" holiday weekend, in a sign of recovery amid the coronavirus pandemic. The surge in domestic travel is in contrast to previous holidays, when pressure was high for people living in urban congested areas to stay home and avoid areas with fewer infections. The new daily cases in Tokyo have recently fluctuated around 200, but Japan does not have widespread testing and many cases are likely going undetected. Baseball games, stores and theaters are open again with social distancing, mask-wearing, hand sanitizers and temperature checks. A study by mobile carrier NTT DoCoMo showed crowd size at a domestic terminal at Tokyo's main Haneda airport, as well as train stations and shopping districts nationwide. Japan, with about 1,500 deaths related to COVID-19, has banned almost all overseas visitors and requires quarantine and virus checks for returning Japanese. The Silver Week includes this weekend and two national holidays, Respect for the Aged Day and the Autumn Equinox.

■ South Korea's new coronavirus tally has fallen below 100 for the first time in more than a month. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said Sunday that the newly counted 82 cases took the country's total to 22,975 with 383 deaths. The drop is likely partly driven by the fact that authorities conduct fewer tests on weekends. But even before Sunday, South Korea's daily tally has held in the 100s for more than two weeks, down from 400 in late August. Health officials say the downward trend is a result of stringent social distancing rules imposed on the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area. Those rules were recently relaxed. The government is urging the public not to lower their guard as small-scale clusters are still being reported.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thai protesters reinstall plaque symbolizing democracy

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators occupying a historic field in the Thai capital on Sunday installed a plaque symbolizing the country's transition to democracy to replace the original one that was mysteriously ripped and stolen three years ago, as they vowed to press on with calls for new elections and reform of the monarchy. The mass student-led rally that began Saturday was the largest in a series of protests this year, with thousands camping overnight at Sanam Luang field near the royal palace. A group of activists drilled a hole in front of a makeshift stage and, after Buddhist rituals, laid down a round brass plaque in cement to commemorate a 1932 revolution that changed Thailand from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy.

Rights group: More than 300 detained at Minsk women's march

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Police in the capital of Belarus cracked down sharply Saturday on a women's protest march demanding the authoritarian president's resignation, arresting more than 300 including an elderly woman who has become a symbol of the six weeks of protest that have roiled the country. More than 2,000 women took part in the march in Minsk. Such anti-government marches have become a regular feature of the unprecedented wave of large, persistent protests that began after the Aug. 9 presidential election. Officials said President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term in office with 80% support in that vote but opponents and some poll workers say the results were rigged. During Lukashenko's 26 years in office, he has consistently repressed opposition and independent news media. Large demonstrations have been held in cities throughout the country and some Sunday protests in Minsk have attracted crowds estimated at up to 200,000 people.

Greek flooding leaves 2 dead, 1 missing; 600 others rescued

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A storm pounded parts of central Greece, creating flooding Saturday that killed two people, left 1 missing and forced emergency workers to rescue more than 600 people. Authorities identified the two victims as an elderly woman found dead in her flooded home in the region of Thessaly and a 63-year-old shepherd swept away by rising floodwaters. They also said a woman who is missing ignored instructions by firefighters and police not to drive into an area where a bridge spans a river. The country's firefighting service said Saturday that it had fielded almost 2,500 calls from trapped residents in central and western Greece or about removing fallen trees that were blocking roads. Greece's train operator, Trainose, said service linking southern and northern Greece was suspended. Water from a river that burst its banks damaged at least two bridges and several buildings, including the local health center in the Thessaly town of Mouzaki, which collapsed. Parts of the stricken area were without electricity. The storm is projected to move on to the Greek islands, including Crete, shortly.

Cargo plane crashes at airport in Somalia's capital, 3 hurt

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A cargo plane crashed Saturday morning at the international airport in Somalia's capital, and the country's transport minister said three of the four crew members on board were injured. Photos from the scene showed the plane's cockpit crushed against a concrete barrier just steps from the sea. Transport Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Salad told reporters that the plane had just taken off for Beledweyne town in central Somalia but returned to the airport after having mechanical problems. Markings on the plane indicated that it is operated by Silverstone Air in neighboring Kenya. The company could not be reached.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Abel Sablan Celis

BORN: MAY 20, 1959
DIED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

In Abel's new life he will be welcomed by his:

MOTHER: †FRANCISCA SABLAN CELIS
FATHER: †ABEL CELIS
BROTHER: †ROQUE S. CELIS
BROTHER IN LAW: †JOSEPH SAN NICOLAS, †JUAN LIZAMA, †ANTONIO TAISACAN, †FRANK MESA

Abel's memories will live forever in the hearts of his:

COMMON LAW WIFE: FLORA SELBART
CHILDREN: ARLYNNA AUGUSTINO, ALASTAIR AUGUSTINO, MUSTAFA AUGUSTINO, PRESLEY AUGUSTINO, NEVAEH BELLE SELBART CELIS

BROTHERS/SISTERS:
CARMEN/†JUAN LIZAMA & CHILDREN
ROSALINA/†FRANK MESA & CHILDREN
†ROQUE/REMEDIO CELIS & CHILDREN
MARIA/JUAQUIN DELOS SANTOS & CHILDREN
BERNADITA/MARTIN SAN NICOLAS & CHILDREN
DOLORES/†JOSEPH SAN NICOLAS & CHILDREN
MARIANO/KAREN CELIS & CHILDREN
FRANK CELIS & CHILDREN
IGNACIO/LYNN CELIS & CHILDREN

Nightly Rosary is being observed at Remedio Celis Residence at Koblerville, 7:30 p.m.

Funeral details will be provided at a later date.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Extra weight can be a deadly complication when fighting COVID-19

By SKYLER SWISHER
SUN SENTINEL

Dr. Craig Mallak's work in the morgue tracking Broward County's COVID-19 deaths startled him so much he shed pounds that he didn't even need to lose.

"Obesity is a factor in a lot of cases," Mallak, Broward's chief medical examiner, said in an email. "Motivated me to lose 18 pounds in June, and I'm not overweight to start with."

The dominant message so far in the pandemic is that older people are the most at risk. That's true, but doctors on the front lines of South Florida's outbreak are also finding obesity is making it harder for people to fight off the virus, regardless of age.

That could have grave implications for the United States, which has one of the highest obesity rates in the world, said Dr. Cate Varney, an obesity specialist at the University of Virginia Health System.

"A colleague asked me, 'Do you think it will get as bad as Italy?'" Varney recalled. "I said, 'No, it's going to be worse because we have higher rates of obesity.' This is a definite call to action. We can start now, but we need to be prepared at the end of this pandemic to really start taking obesity more seriously."

It's not just a few extra pandemic pounds that should spark worry, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines.

Specifically, people who have a body-mass index greater than 30 are at higher risk, said Dr. Sunil Kumar, medical director of intensive care at Broward Health Medical Center. Body-mass index varies by height and weight. A person who is off the normal weight by about 40 pounds could be considered obese, a category that includes about 30% of Floridians.

A man of average height—5 feet, 9 inches—would be considered obese at 203 pounds, while a woman of average height—5 feet, 4 inches—would meet that mark at 175 pounds, according to a BMI calculator.

Studies are showing that younger patients with COVID-19 who are admitted to the hospital are more likely to have obesity as an underlying factor. That's been backed up by Kumar's own observation in the ICU.

"The spread of this disease has significantly changed from the first wave," Kumar said. "I am seeing a lot more younger patients. I even have patients in the ICU as young as 19 who are really, really sick."

Varney, the obesity specialist, said several possible explanations exist as to why COVID-19 patients who are overweight tend to have worse outcomes. Research is still being done, and scientists don't have a definitive explanation yet.

One theory is that people with obesity have more Ace2 receptors on their cells. The virus uses these receptors to infect cells and then make copies of itself.

"If you have obesity, you have more Ace2 receptors so you are going to have a higher viral load, and it takes longer for virus to get out of your body," Varney said.

People with obesity are also susceptible to low-grade chronic inflammation, which has been associated with worse outcomes.

Another factor could be that being overweight compresses the lungs, leading to smaller lung capacity. Obesity is linked with other chronic illnesses, such as high blood pressure, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes, that heighten the risk.

"This is what I am telling my obesity management patients: 'This is not about vanity,'" Varney said. "'This is not about looking good in clothes. What this virus has shown to us and needs to be taken seriously and recognized is the impact obesity has on your health and your life. It can be the difference between life and early death.'"

Obesity and other chronic diseases are showing up in medical examiner records in South Florida. For Broward County, the most-mentioned underlying condition is arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease (a buildup of plaque in the arteries), followed by diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, according to a South Florida Sun Sentinel analysis.

Gov. Ron DeSantis invoked the link between weight and COVID-19 hospitalizations as a reason to keep Florida's gyms open. He expressed concerns that Floridians weren't getting enough exercise during the shutdown.

But Varney said telling people to eat less and exercise more is an oversimplification of a complex condition that is too often stigmatized, misunderstood and maligned by the public. Obesity has environmental, societal and genetic components that make it difficult to treat, she said.

About 30% of Floridians are obese, according to the Florida Department of Health. South Florida is better than the statewide average but still hundreds of thousands of people are at risk. The obesity percentage in Miami-Dade and Broward is about 25%, while Palm Beach County's is 20%.

Shevrin Jones, a state representative from Broward County, said he thinks his weight loss made a difference in his recovery from COVID-19. Jones had mild symptoms from the virus.

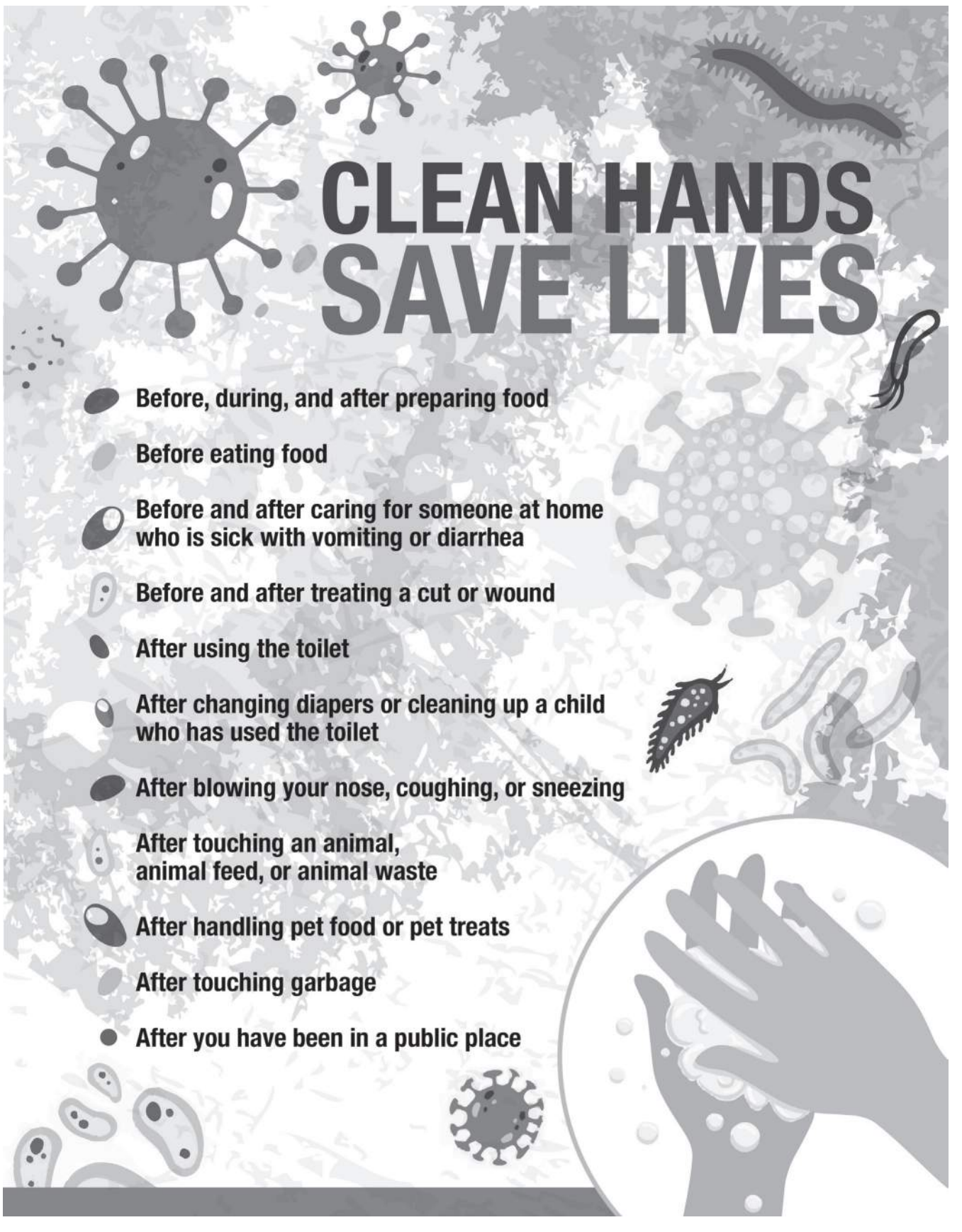
Jones said he weighed 461 pounds during his freshman year of college. Now, Jones, 36, is down to 211 pounds. He said he exercises five days a week and eats a healthy diet.

"Health is extremely important to me," Jones said. "My doctor told me he believes because of how much I exercise that's what saved me with this, having a strong immune system."

While exercising and eating healthy is good advice, it isn't a substitute for wearing a mask, washing hands and keeping physical distance from others, said Kumar, the ICU doctor.

Younger people who are at a normal weight also shouldn't let their guard down, he said. Kumar has seen otherwise healthy younger patients in the ICU.

"It makes you really upset with all this disease and death that we are seeing people who are not taking this seriously," he said. "The best thing for people to do is protect themselves and others."


CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES
Before, during, and after preparing food
Before eating food
Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
Before and after treating a cut or wound
After using the toilet
After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
After handling pet food or pet treats
After touching garbage
After you have been in a public place

Life & Style

Carpenters wow public with medieval techniques at Notre Dame

(AP PHOTO/FRANCOIS MORI)

Carpenters put the skills of their Medieval colleagues on show on the plaza in front of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, the day honoring European heritage, by reproducing for the public a section of the elaborate carpentry used when the edifice was built. The elaborate wooden beams went up in flames in a devastating April 2019 fire that also toppled the spire of the cathedral, now being renovated.

PARIS (AP)—With precision and boundless energy, a team of carpenters used medieval techniques to raise up—by hand—a three-ton oak truss Saturday in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, a replica of the wooden structures that were consumed in the landmark's devastating April 2019 fire that also toppled its spire.

The demonstration to mark European Heritage Days gave the hundreds of people a first-hand look at the rustic methods used 800 years ago to build the triangular frames in the nave of Notre Dame de Paris.

It also showed that the decision to replicate the cathedral in its original form was the right one, said Gen. Jean-Louis Georgelin, who heads the cathedral's reconstruction.

"It shows … firstly that we made the right choice in choosing to rebuild the carpentry identically, in oak from France," Georgelin said in an interview. "Secondly, it shows us the ... method by which we will rebuild the framework, truss after truss."

A debate over whether the new spire should have a futuristic design or whether the trusses should be made of fireproof cement like in the Cathedral of Nantes, which was destroyed in a 1972 fire, ended with the decision in July to respect Notre Dame's original design and materials.

A total of 25 trusses are to be installed at an unknown date in the cathedral nave. Philippe Gourmain, a forestry expert working on the cathedral project, said the carpentry phase will not come before 2022.

"The problem of Notre Dame is not a carpentry problem. We have the wood. We know how to do it," Gourmain said. "The big issue is regarding the stone."

Some stones—which support the carpentry—were damaged by the fire and "it's not so easy now" to find similar stone, he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron wants the cathedral reopened in 2024 in time for the Paris Olympic Games, a deadline that many experts have called unrealistic.

For the moment, the delicate task of dismantling melted scaffolding, which was originally erected to refurbish the now-toppled spire, continues. That job, started in early June, will be completed in October.

The soaring cathedral vaults are also being cleared of debris by 35 specialists on ropes. The organ with its 8,000 pipes was removed for repair in early August.

It is not yet known what technique will be used to create and install the wooden trusses.

The truss mounted for the weekend display is a replica of truss No. 7, more advanced that the first six trusses, which were "more primitive," said Florian Carpentier, site manager for the team from Carpenters Without Borders team that felled the trees and used axes to cut the logs for the wooden frame. With rope cables and a rustic pulley system, the carpenters slowly pulled the truss they built in July from the ground where it was laid out.

Disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein stripped of UK honor

LONDON (AP)—Britain on Friday stripped disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of an honor recognizing his contribution to the U.K. film industry.

Weinstein, 68, was given the honor in 2004. The 68-year-old former Hollywood producer was convicted earlier this year of rape and sexual assault against two women and sentenced to 23 years in prison.

Accusations by dozens of women in 2017 led to the end of his career and helped spur #MeToo—a global movement demanding that powerful men be held accountable for their sexual misconduct.

"The Queen has directed that the appointment of Harvey Weinstein to be an Honorary Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, dated January 19 2004, shall be cancelled and annulled and that his name shall be erased from the Register of the said Order," according to a notice in The Gazette, the U.K.'s official public record.

Coronavirus-wary Bavarians kick off toned-down Oktoberfest

BERLIN (AP)—Oktoberfest celebrations got underway Saturday in Munich with the traditional tapping of a keg and the cry of "O'zapft is!"—"It's tapped!"—but this year's festival is very non-traditional and highly regulated due to coronavirus concerns.

The official Oktoberfest has been cancelled, so there's no huge tents full of people or hundreds of stands selling food. Instead, 50 of the southern German city's beer halls and other establishments are hosting their own, smaller parties that follow guidelines on mask wearing, social distancing and other restrictions.

Former Mayor Christian Ude got the party started, hammering a tap into a 20 liter (5 gallon) keg—a tenth of the size of the Oktoberfest norm—at the Schillerbraeu beer hall while dressed in Bavarian lederhosen leather pants and wearing a protective mask.

Meantime, police patrolled the regular festival grounds to make sure no spontaneous parties broke out.

The loss of Oktoberfest is a huge hit for the Bavarian city, which saw 6.3 million guests flood in last year for the festival's 186th year. They were served 7.3 million liters (about 15.5 million pints) of beer over 16 days and consumed 124 oxen, among other traditional foods.

This year's toned-down celebrations run through Oct. 4.

Friend playing Cupid neglects to mention man's drug habit

DEAR ABBY: My hairdresser, former neighbor and friend recommended her unemployed brother to do some minor repairs to my home. He and his sister were trying to push me into a relationship. I am a widow with no children. I have no mortgages, car notes, etc. I'm not wealthy, but I am well set.

My hairdresser recently mentioned that her brother was using crack cocaine again. I'm furious that she didn't disclose her brother's addiction sooner. Should I let it go or confront her about this? I really don't want to lose my hairdresser.

STYLED RIGHT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR STYLED: You are certainly free to ask your hairdresser why she didn't tell you her brother had a crack habit before recommending him to do repairs in your home. It's a fair question, if nothing is missing and the repairs were done properly. Refrain from doing it while you are angry. If you hang onto your temper, there is no reason why your relationship with the woman should end.

As to a relationship with the brother, no law says you must have one with him. You don't have to be confrontational, but be less available. As you spend more time with other people, he will get the message.

DEAR ABBY: My son (age 30) is getting a liver transplant soon, and my ex-husband (son's father) refuses to use personal protective equipment in his encounters with others because he thinks his civil liberties are being violated. We don't communicate often because the new wife is a very unpleasant person who took my house away 10 years ago. I'm OK with that because I landed on my feet in a much better situation, but I do not trust her or speak to her.

I have left posts on Facebook requesting that those who intend to help my son use PPE for at least two weeks before seeing him. So far, my ex has not responded. How can I get him to understand that this is HIS child and not wearing PPE could kill him?

COVID CONCERNED IN GEORGIA

DEAR COVID CONCERNED: Your son's transplant specialist should be asked to send your ex a registered letter explaining the precautions that must be taken if he visits his son and how important they are. I am crossing my fingers that the doctor will do it. But your son must understand that if Daddy is unwilling to cooperate, HE (your son), not you, is the person who must enforce that rule because he will be immuno-compromised, and his life depends on it. As much as you might wish to, you cannot police every encounter Daddy has with his adult son.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, relatives said they would attend a party we were hosting. They didn't come, and we never received any reason why. We had to pay for their dinners. We may see them at an upcoming social event. How should we greet them?

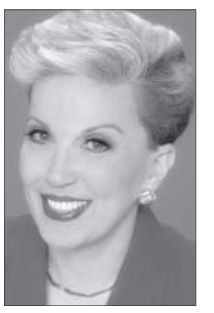
ANNOYED IN OHIO

DEAR ANNOYED: What your relatives did was rude and inconsiderate. When you see them, say hello and calmly ask why they didn't show up. Be polite, which they weren't—and in the future remove them from your guest list if their answer doesn't satisfy you.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

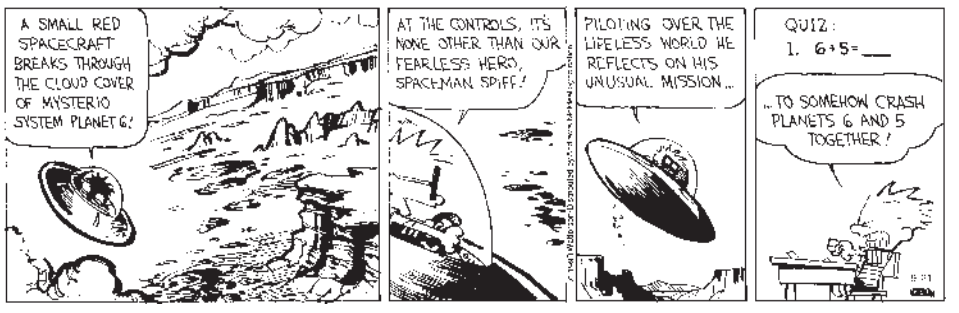


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

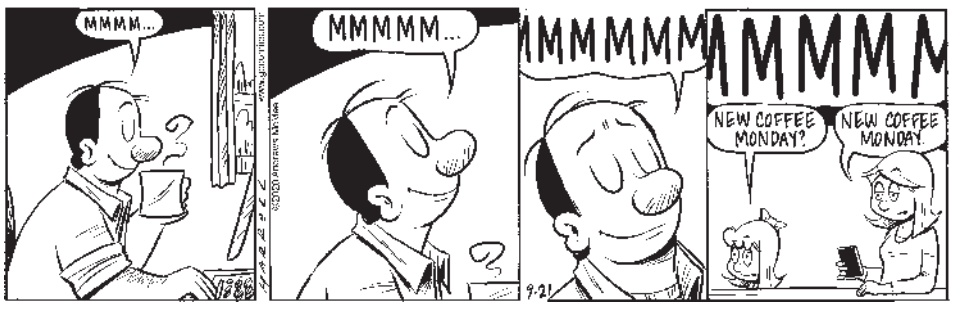

A SMALL RED SPACECRAFT BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUD COVER OF MYSTERIO SYSTEM PLANET 6!
AT THE CONTROLS, IT'S NONE OTHER THAN OUR FEARLESS HERO, SPACEMAN SPIFF!
PILOTING OVER THE LIFELESS WORLD HE REFLECTS ON HIS UNUSUAL MISSION...
QUIZ: 1. 6+5=___
...TO SOMEHOW CRASH PLANETS 6 AND 5 TOGETHER!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

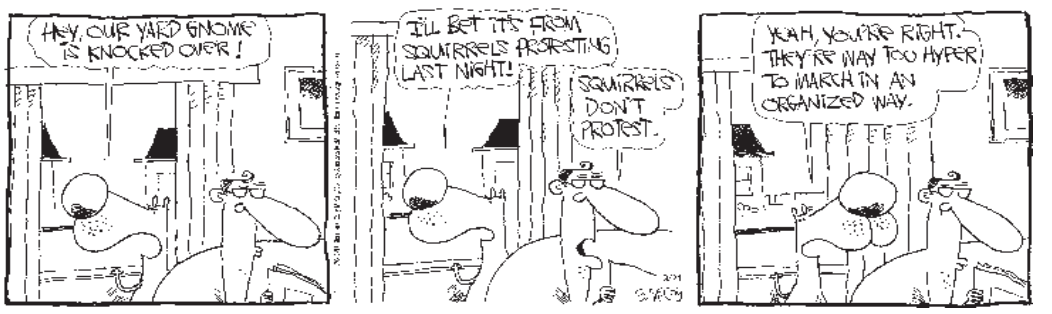
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, OUR YARD GNOME IS KNOCKED OVER!
I'LL BET IT'S FROM SQUIRRELS PROTESTING LAST NIGHT!
SQUIRRELS DON'T PROTEST.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY'RE WAY TOO HYPER TO MARCH IN AN ORGANIZED WAY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Comic Leno
4 Revise
9 "Uh-huh"
12 Night before
13 Spokes
14 Overhead trains
15 Signs of sorrow
17 Small battery
18 Ad —
19 Squirrel's stash
21 45th Vice President
24 Pyramid, maybe
25 Caviar
26 Pouch
28 Be nosy
31 Tax prep pros
33 Boom times
35 Corn Belt state
36 Egret's cousin
38 Hit hard
40 Family
41 Detail, briefly
43 Fidgets
45 Sneaky laugh
47 Dime portrait
48 Swiss canton
49 Journal salutation
54 Sprite
55 Flynn of film
56 Bee follower
57 Even so
58 Keaton of "Annie Hall"
59 Explanation

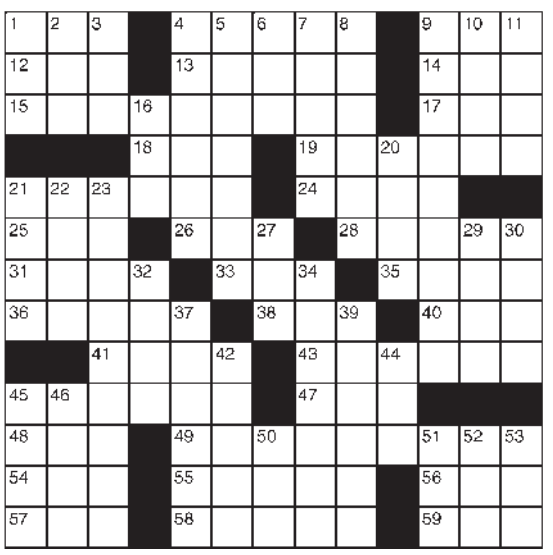
DOWN

1 Lustrous black
2 St. crosser
3 Verily
4 Passions
5 Mime extraordinaire
6 Tokyo's historic name
7 Try to bite, puppy-style
8 Dance clubs
9 School keepsakes
10 — Bator
11 Unpaid TV ads
16 Greek P
20 High-end hotel chain
21 Eyebrow shape
22 Easy gait
23 Transmission lever
27 EMT's skill
29 Tot's boo-boo
30 Skillets
32 Former frosh
34 Orange-yellow
37 Required
39 Mix-up
42 Dijon darling
44 — Lanka
45 Donald Duck's nephew
46 Perry's creator
50 Altar constellation
51 Essen exclamation
52 Classic car
53 Evergreen tree

Solution time: 26 mins.

W	A	G		F	T	D		P	A	M	P	A	
A	M	O		A	R	I		A	R	C	O	M	
_	I	T		R	O	C	K	C	A	N	D	Y	
T	N	T		M	O	_	F	T					
Z	O	O	M		P	A	L		P	I	G	S	
			E	L	S		P	E	A	N	U	T	
M	C	C	O	Y				B	R	A	T	S	
C	O	B	W	E	B		T	B	A				
_	O	S	S		L	B	O		S	W	A	B	
			I	L	I	U	S		A	I	A		
S	H	E	E	T	R	O	C	K		X	E	S	
A	I	M	E	D		C	H	I		E	V	E	
Y	E	S	E	S		S	Y	N		D	E	S	

Last Friday's Answer 09/21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alfonso Ribeiro, 49; Nancy Travis, 59; Bill Murray, 70; Stephen King, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in what you do. Focus on home, family and taking care of personal matters that can influence how and where you live. Refuse to let your emotions twist your judgment. Don't feel you are obligated to put others before yourself and your loved ones. Social distancing will put a damper on your long-term plans. Make adjustments and keep moving forward. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 27, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stabilize your money situation. Invest in something that will help you raise your earning potential. Physical fitness and educational pursuits are favored. A meaningful relationship will undergo a change that leads to added benefits. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Finish what you start, regardless of what others do or say. Get things done on time in order to avoid criticism. If you do a good job, it will lead to rewards. Take care of your responsibilities, and live up to your promises. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your emotions in check, facts straight and expectations doable. Make personal improvements. Use your intelligence to come up with an idea that will help you get ahead. Physical fitness is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Choose to do things differently. By taking a unique path, you will discover the talents and skills you didn't realize you possessed. A change of plans will work in your favor, and an opportunity will bring you closer to someone special. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Work from home if possible. What you accomplish will far exceed your expectations and set a precedent that will give you the incentive to combine your working and living spaces to achieve optimum efficiency and lower your overhead. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your intentions a secret until you have a plan in place. Taking a unique approach to an old idea looks promising. Refuse to let a past connection interfere with your life. Avoid extreme situations and overindulgent individuals. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Find a one-of-a-kind way to present what you have to offer. A change regarding how you earn your living or handle money is favored. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction that will leave you at a loss. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look for a new way to solve an old problem. A change of attitude or approach will give you the leverage you need to gain support. The proper protocol will be necessary to avoid a setback. A partnership is overdue for an adjustment. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay more attention to what's going on around you. Don't trust anyone with information that is sensitive. Take more time to assess your health and finances. Take care of professional responsibilities in order to avoid complaints. Think before you act. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be part of the solution, not the problem. Use common sense, and offer alternatives that are in line with what's best for everyone. A positive change at home will ensure that you don't disrupt your relationship with someone you depend on. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put more time and effort into nurturing meaningful relationships. As long as you can keep the peace without having to do something that may jeopardize your position, reputation or opportunities, you'll come out on top. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotional matters will surface if you or someone you are dealing with isn't honest. Spend more time helping others and less time trying to manipulate situations to suit your needs. Relationships require trust, patience and equality to stand the test of time. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, entertaining and sensitive. You are opportunistic and opinionated.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	6			5		8
8		2	1		3	
2		9	6		4	
8						4
3	9	7		2		5
7						9
7		1	9		5	
3		4	7		8	
6	1			7		2

Difficulty Level ★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	9	3	4	1	8	5	6	2
2	1	6	3	9	5	4	7	8
5	8	4	7	6	2	1	3	9
8	6	5	9	3	1	2	4	7
3	4	7	8	2	6	9	1	5
9	2	1	5	4	7	3	8	6
6	5	2	1	7	3	8	9	4
1	7	9	2	8	4	6	5	3
4	3	8	6	5	9	7	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S A GLITCH Solution: 7 letters

V	S	S	N	A	P	H	H	A	S	S	L	E	H	E
T	E	A	R	M	C	O	T	T	E	A	T	I	I	D
T	E	X	I	T	L	S	R	E	M	U	T	E	N	I
N	B	R	A	D	E	I	U	M	O	C	C	O	D	S
O	C	C	U	T	A	Q	E	K	H	N	I	A	R	N
I	G	P	Y	L	I	L	N	K	E	T	Ⓕ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓦ
T	N	C	U	P	I	O	H	I	C	S	L	K	N	O
P	I	Y	G	D	C	A	N	E	C	O	L	N	C	D
U	L	T	A	S	K	E	F	R	A	T	N	I	E	T
R	T	P	L	L	V	R	A	D	S	D	A	K	P	R
R	T	U	P	N	E	S	U	O	S	G	A	N	S	A
E	E	C	O	P	H	D	L	K	C	E	H	C	K	M
T	S	C	M	I	B	O	T	H	E	R	E	D	H	M
N	N	I	B	L	O	C	K	I	R	K	S	O	M	E
I	U	H	K	B	U	R	D	E	N	T	I	M	I	L

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Blip, Block, Bothered, Burden, Catch, Check, Conk Out, Crash, Crimp, Delay, Dilemma, Downside, Failure, Fault, Flaw, Hassle, Headache, Hiccup, Hindrance, Hitch, Holdup, Imperfection, Inconvenience, Interruption, Irksome, Kink, Knock, Limit, Load, Lost, Pique, Plaguy, Slip, Snags, Snap, Tank, Task, Tear, Test, Trammel, Trial, Unsettling, Vexation

Last Friday's Answer: Oscillating

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Celtics hang tough to take Game 3

FLORIDA (AP)—Getting big leads has been relatively easy for the Boston Celtics in these Eastern Conference finals.

This time, they also found a way to finish the job.

And just like that, the East title series got a whole lot closer.

Jaylen Brown scored 26 points, Jayson Tatum added 25 and the Celtics got right back into the East finals with a 117-106 victory over the Miami Heat in Game 3 on Saturday night. Kemba Walker added 21 to help Boston pull to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Marcus Smart scored 20 points for Boston, going 9 for 9 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. The Celtics—who also got 14 rebounds and eight assists from Tatum — outscored Miami 60-36 inside the paint, led by as many as 20 and never trailed.

The Celtics held Miami to 39% shooting.

Bam Adebayo had 27 points and 16 rebounds for the Heat, who fell for just the second time in 12 games in these playoffs. Tyler Herro scored 22 points, Jimmy Butler had 17 and Duncan Robinson 13.

The Heat rallied from 14 points down to win Game 1 in overtime, 17 points down to win Game 2, but never caught up Saturday—though they put together a late run to make matters interesting.

They got within eight on a 3-pointer by Robinson with 1:12 left, setting the tone for the Celtics to scramble at the end. Brown committed a flagrant foul nine seconds later, and Robinson made one of two free throws to cut Boston's lead to 109-102.

Adebayo scored on the ensuing possession to get Miami within five and cap a 24-9 run, but the Heat got no closer.

Herro had 16 points in the second quarter alone to keep Miami close, the last of those 16 coming on a 3-pointer with 3:22 left before halftime to cut Boston's lead to 51-48.

That's when the Celtics started to run away.

Boston got three consecutive fast-break scores in a span of 48 seconds to push its lead back to 10, and after a late 3-pointer by Walker it was 63-50 at the break.

And when Miami tried another comeback in the third, Boston again had a late-in-the-quarter answer.

The Heat went on an 11-1 run to get to 82-73 on a layup by Herro with 1:08 left in the third, and Boston answered with the next seven points—needing just 32.9 seconds to get them.

Goran Dragic had 11 for Miami and Jae Crowder finished with 10. The Heat were 12 for 44 from 3-point range.

AP

Miami Heat's Goran Dragic, left, and Andre Iguodala (28) defend as Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (36) attempts a shot during the first half of an NBA conference final playoff game, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

"We did some good things tonight to answer their runs, most of the time," Stevens said.

Goran Dragic had 11 for Miami and Jae Crowder finished with 10. The Heat were 12 for 44 from 3-point range.

"We didn't play hard enough," Butler said. "I think we didn't do anything that we said that we were going to do."

This is the 124th series in Boston playoff history, and the Celtics have trailed 3-0 in only seven of them. Brown and Tatum now have eight games each of at least 20 points so far in these playoffs. Gordon Hayward made his return after missing a month with a sprained right ankle, scoring six points in 31 minutes.

Even with the loss, Miami matched the best 12-game start to any postseason in team history— now 10-2. The Heat also started postseasons that way in 2005, 2012 and 2013. Miami never led, marking the first time that happened in the team's last 70 games. The only other instance of that this season for the Heat was Nov. 23 against Philadelphia.

Games in the bubble still count toward "home" and "road" records. The road-designated team has won the last 12 games in which Boston has played—and in the playoffs, road teams are now 39-31. That ties the NBA record for road wins in any postseason; teams were 39-50 on the road in the 2014 playoffs. The road winning percentage this postseason (.557 right now) would also be an NBA record; the current mark is .519, set in 1966 when road teams went 14-13.

LeBron unhappy to receive so few votes for NBA MVP

FLORIDA—After the Lakers won Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Friday, LeBron James gave his honest reaction to MVP voting, which was won by Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo for a second consecutive year. He was "pissed off" that he got only 16 out of 101 votes for the award. It's voted on by media members from markets around the country.

But after James spoke about his own position, he riffed on the structure of the award and other league awards.

"It's just the voting scale is a little weird to me sometimes," James said. "I mean, if you take 2012. If you just stick with me—or 2012-13, I had a chance to be Defensive Player of the Year and also MVP in the same season. And that year [Marc] Gasol was [voted] Defensive Player of the Year, but he made second team all-defense, OK."

"So that doesn't make sense. It's like being MVP of the league but you make second team All-NBA. That's when I really started to look at things kind of like differently. I was like, how does that even make any sense? It's like being rookie of the year but you make second team all-rookie."

He then turned his thoughts to Most Improved Player, an award won by his former teammate Brandon Ingram, who had a standout year with the New Orleans Pelicans.

"Brandon Ingram was amazing and I thought he should have won it," James said. "But did you see the vote that Devonte' Graham [of the Charlotte Hornets] got? He averaged four points last year compared to 17 and a half. If that's not improving, what is?"

No let up against Nuggets

With one comeback after another in the playoffs, the Denver Nuggets showed themselves to be a team that falls down but doesn't stay down.

The Los Angeles Lakers noticed.

They watched the Nuggets repeatedly rally from big deficits against Utah and then the Los Angeles Clippers—and, obviously, are aware that the Jazz and the Clippers are no longer in the NBA bubble because of Denver's comeback abilities.

So the Lakers knew that when it was their turn to face Denver, there would be no letting up no matter what the scoreboard said.

Game 2 is Sunday night. The Lakers know the job is far from over.

"No lead is safe with this team, in the game or in the series," Lakers star Anthony Davis said. "They have proven that they are a second-half team, where they come out and just destroy teams in the second half and prove that even if they are down a series, they are a team that's going to be resilient and keep fighting no matter what the score is, what the situation is.

"When we have a lead, we have to lock in even more."

The Lakers did that in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals, turning an 11-point halftime lead into a 27-point bulge in the second half before easing to a 126-114 victory.

"That's a historic type of resilient team," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've got to understand that, both with the series lead 1-0 right now and wherever it goes, but also within games."

Denver reached the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2009 by becoming the first team in NBA history to erase two 3-1 deficits in one postseason. The Nuggets trailed by 15 points in Game 5 against Utah in their first game facing elimination, then were down 16, 19 and 12 in the final three games against the Clippers.

The Nuggets are the first team with three 15-point comebacks while facing elimination in one postseason since play-by-play began being recorded digitally in 1997.

"This is an opponent we all greatly respect," Vogel said. "Save for the comebacks, we respect what they are capable of doing on both ends of the floor."

It won't matter how resilient the Nuggets are if they don't make things tougher for the Lakers defensively.

Davis shredded them so easily on his way to 37 points that the Lakers didn't even need much scoring from James, who took only 11 shots and had 15 points and 12 assists. Los Angeles got plenty of opportunities in transition and in the paint, which were areas of emphasis for Denver.

"We were giving up layups after we scored baskets ourselves. So that indicates to me that our sense of urgency to get back was not anywhere remotely close to where it needed to be tonight," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said after the game.

When the Nuggets do get back, they need to do a better job of defending without fouling. They sent the Lakers to the line 24 times in the second quarter—Denver shot only 28 for the entire game—and both Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray had to go to the bench with three fouls in the period.

"We've just got to be better," Murray said. "We've just got to be on point. We've got to talk more, talk earlier, point, whatever we've got to do."

This is the first time in this postseason the Lakers will take the lead into Game 2, having dropped their opening games against both Portland and Houston. They didn't lose again in either series. ***(AP/NBC)***

Twins beat Cubs to clinch postseason slot

CHICAGO (AP)—Eddie Rosario, Miguel Sano and Josh Donaldson homered as the Minnesota Twins clinched a second straight postseason berth with an 8-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday night.

The Twins are guaranteed at least a wild-card berth. They trail the Chicago White Sox by three games in the AL Central with six games to play. The White Sox have eight games remaining.

Coming off a no-hitter on Sunday against Milwaukee, Cubs starter Alec Mills (5-4) allowed four runs and six hits in six-plus innings. He struck out seven and walked one as Chicago's five-game winning streak ended.

Rosario and Mitch Garver had a two-run pinch-hit single as Minnesota rebounded after dropping four of five on the current road trip against both Chicago teams.

The Twins, who won the division last year, will make back-to-back playoff appearances for the first time since 2009-10.

AP

Minnesota Twins third baseman Josh Donaldson (24) picks up a grounder from Chicago Cubs' Kris Bryant (17) during the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, in Chicago.

White Sox 5, Reds 0

Tim Anderson hit two of Chicago's five solo homers, and the White Sox—already guaranteed a playoff spot—took another step toward the AL Central title by overpowering Cincinnati.

Chicago has won eight of its last 10 games, securing at least a wild card and its first postseason appearance since 2008.

Yankees 8, Red Sox 0

J.A. Happ pitched eight scoreless innings, Clint Frazier hit a two-run home run and accounted for three of New York's 11 hits as the Yankees beat Boston for their 10th consecutive win.

The victory is New York's 12th straight over Boston dating to last season, tying the Yankees' longest winning streak in baseball's most historic rivalry. It also dropped New York's magic number to one to clinch its fourth consecutive postseason berth.

Astros 3, Diamondbacks 2

Jose Altuve drove in two, Kyle Tucker had a tiebreaking single and Houston beat Arizona to get back to .500.

Altuve tied it at 2 in the sixth with an RBI double, and Tucker put Houston ahead with his single three batters later, chasing starter Luke Weaver (1-8). Altuve also had a run-scoring groundout in the third.

Athletics 6, Giants 0

Jake Lamb hit a two-run homer and Oakland beat San Francisco for the second straight game.

Lefty starter Jesus Luzardo (3-2) gave up five hits over six innings, striking out seven without a walk. He ended a four-start winless stretch.

Rays 3, Orioles 1

Charlie Morton pitched five effective innings and AL East-leading Tampa Bay used homers by Yoshi Tsutsugo and Randy Arozarena to beat Baltimore.

Arozarena's two-run drive in the fifth off Jorge Lopez (2-1) put the Rays up 3-1, and that was enough offense to ring up the win.

Marlins 7, Nationals 3

Miguel Rojas and Garrett Cooper each had a double and a homer and Miami beat Washington and maintained its hold on second place in the NL East.

Starling Marte and Brian Anderson each singled twice for the Marlins, who had 14 hits against Washington starter Patrick Corbin.

Tigers 5, Indians 2

Eric Haase and Daz Cameron hit RBI singles during a four-run eighth inning, and Detroit won their first game following manager Ron Gardenhire's retirement.

Gardenhire abruptly stepped down before the game, saying it had been a stressful season for him and that he needed to focus on his health.

Phillies 3, Blue Jays 1

Vince Velasquez pitched six strong innings, Andrew McCutchen hit the go-ahead single in the fifth inning and Philadelphia beat slumping Toronto.

Velasquez allowed a run, two hits, and three walks with six strikeouts.

Brewers 5, Royals 0

Corbin Burnes threw six solid innings of four-hit ball and Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer in Milwaukee's four-run eighth inning in a win over Kansas City.

With the win, Milwaukee moved into a tie with the Cincinnati Reds, one game behind second-place St. Louis in the NL Central.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4

Tyler O'Neill hit a two-run double to end a no-hit bid started by Pittsburgh's Mitch Keller, and St. Louis rallied to beat the Pirates.

Keller threw 84 pitches over six no-hit innings and was pulled from the game leading 4-0, but the Cardinals scored five runs off relief pitchers Geoff Hartlieb and Sam Howard in the seventh.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 1

Clayton Kershaw held Colorado to four hits and a run over seven strong innings to lead Los Angeles to the win.

Chris Taylor homered, tripled and drove in three runs, and AJ Pollock also hit a home run for the NL West leaders.

Mets 7, Braves 2

Rookie David Peterson struck out NL batting leader Freddie Freeman three times and fanned a career-high 10 in six sharp innings as the Mets beat Atlanta.

Atlanta saw its NL East lead over second-place Miami drop to 2 1/2 games. The Mets moved to within 1 1/2 games of the NL's last playoff spot with eight games left.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	35	18	.660	0.0
NY Yankees	31	21	.596	3.5
Toronto	26	26	.500	8.5
Baltimore	22	31	.415	13.0
Boston	19	34	.358	16.0
Central				
x-Chi White Sox	34	18	.654	0.0
x-Minnesota	32	22	.593	3.0
Cleveland	28	24	.538	6.0
Detroit	22	29	.431	11.5
Kansas City	21	31	.404	13.0
West				
x-Oakland	33	19	.635	0.0
Houston	26	26	.500	7.0
Seattle	23	29	.442	10.0
LA Angels	23	30	.434	10.5
Texas	18	34	.346	15.0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	30	22	.577	0.0
Miami	27	24	.529	2.5
Philadelphia	27	25	.519	3.0
NY Mets	24	28	.462	6.0
Washington	19	31	.380	10.0
Central				
Chi Cubs	31	21	.596	0.0
St. Louis	25	24	.510	4.5
Cincinnati	26	27	.491	5.5
Milwaukee	25	26	.490	5.5
Pittsburgh	15	37	.288	16.0
West				
x-LA Dodgers	38	15	.717	0.0
San Diego	33	20	.623	5.0
San Francisco	25	26	.490	12.0
Colorado	22	29	.431	15.0
Arizona	20	33	.377	18.0

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First-timer Wolff leads US Open

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP)—Matthew Wolff is playing his first U.S. Open and carving his own path.

That starts with shots he gouges out of the rough. It ends with him making six birdies, the last one a towering 7-iron from the first cut of rough that landed over the steep slope on the 18th green at Winged Foot and settled 10 feet right of the pin to match the best score—a 5-under 65—at Winged Foot in a major.

He hit only two fairways Saturday on a course - and a major - with a blueprint for avoiding the rough. The only number that mattered to the 21-year-old Californian was a two-shot lead going into the final round.

''There's a lot of holes out there that maybe people would try to hit it in the fairway or maybe take the safe play because it is a U.S. Open, and they know that pars are a good score,'' Wolff said. ''But I don't really like to think of it that way. I like to go out there and do what I feel comfortable with, rip dog and see how it goes from there.''

It's going so well that Wolff is one round away from becoming the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones in 1923. The last U.S. Open champion to win in his debut was Francis Ouimet in 1913. That also was the last time the U.S. Open was played in September.

''I'm probably going to be a little antsy. It's the U.S. Open, and I have a lead,'' Wolff said. ''I'm going to try to keep my nerves as calm as they can be. I put myself in a really good spot. I did everything that I could do up until this point, and tomorrow I'm going to go out there, I promise you I'm going to try my best.''

He was at 5-under 205.

Tiger misses cut

Tiger Woods is headed home early.

Woods, after a rollercoaster start at the U.S. Open on Thursday, had a rough outing last Friday, to stay the least.

Woods posted a 7-over 77 in the second round and dropped to 10-over on the week, well outside of the cutline at Winged Foot Golf Club.

"It's frustrating that I'm not going to be here for the weekend and be able to compete for this great championship," Woods said, via the PGA Tour. "It feels like the way the golf course is changing, is turning, that anybody who makes the cut has the opportunity to win this championship. I didn't give myself that opportunity."

Woods entered Friday at 3-over following an up-and-down round on Thursday, where he carded five birdies but had six bogeys and a double to offset them.

The leaders were just at 5-under, however, and Woods was still in position to make a move— especially after his start on Friday. The 82-time PGA Tour winner opened the second round with four straight pars, holding in position just fine.

Things, however, quickly sent south.

Woods went five over on his final five holes, thanks to a rough pair of double bogeys, to close out his front side with a 40. He made four bogeys on his back nine, too, and appeared to be in a near free fall on the leaderboard in the process.

The 44-year-old finished the day on a high note of sorts, making a pair of birdies in his final three holes—including an impressive up-and-down from the bunker on No. 9. By then, though, it was far too late. Woods finished 2-over on the back and fell into 90th on the leaderboard, ending his tournament.

Top-flight Seahawks await Newton, Patriots

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks have had a nasty habit of starting slowly. If their debut at Atlanta last weekend is any indication, Pete Carroll and Russell Wilson have the motors revving from the jump.

Few teams were more impressive than Seattle as the NFL season began. Baltimore, Kansas City and Green Bay—all 2019 powerhouses—belong in the same conversation, yet those clubs didn't suffer from the malaise that often forced the Seahawks to play from behind.

If Seattle has put such issues behind it, then Cam Newton and the New England Patriots have quite the challenge in a second straight delicious Sunday night matchup.

"Really, I see it playing to our strengths," Carroll says, and his team showed plenty of strength in most areas in the opener.

"And if you don't understand what your strengths are, then you're inconsistent, you don't know how to recover. You don't know how to adjust and adapt. And regardless of which offensive or defensive play you call, it's how you can fix problems and solve your challenges and stuff.

"And if you know your philosophy then you have a way to figure out your answers. If you don't have a good, solid philosophy and a good baseline, then you're shooting from the hip all the time and you're going to be up and down, you know?"

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Cam Newton (1) scores his second rushing touchdown as Miami Dolphins linebacker Jerome Baker (55) chases in the second half of an NFL game, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in Foxborough, Mass.

All of New England knows that a victory at Seattle, even with the 12th Man silenced by the coronavirus pandemic, would be a strong sign the Patriots are in good hands with their new quarterback.

"This was not the same offense we've seen in the past," Carroll says of the Patriots. "They've obviously done a lot of work to the tailor it to him and make sure he's a big part of."

Week 2 began Thursday night with Cleveland's 35-30 home victory over Cincinnati. Baker Mayfield threw two touchdown passes, Nick Chubb ran for two scores and 124 yards and the Browns gave coach Kevin Stefanski his first NFL victory on the NFL's 100th birthday.

Mayfield connected with Odell Beckham Jr. on a 43-yard scoring pass in the first half, and the Browns (1-1) rebounded from an atrocious performance last week in Baltimore. The Bengals are 0-2.

Woods gets $68M extension with Rams

Robert Woods has agreed to a four-year contract extension worth up to $68 million with the Los Angeles Rams.

Woods' extension includes a guaranteed $32 million, and the veteran receiver is now signed with his hometown team through the 2025 season.

Woods is coming off three highly productive seasons for the Rams, racking up 3,134 total yards receiving and 284 yards rushing with 15 total touchdowns. He has been a major, versatile component of Los Angeles' prolific offense under coach Sean McVay since they joined the franchise together in 2017

Pandemic disrupting FIFA's World Cup, Club World Cup

GENEVA (AP)—The coronavirus pandemic has forced one edition of FIFA's Club World Cup to be postponed, is pushing back another, and causing concern about delays to 2022 World Cup qualifying games.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino confirmed on Friday an inevitable rescheduling to the traditional seven-team tournament for continental club champions that was scheduled in Qatar in December.

South America's champion will not be known until January after the 2020 Copa Libertadores group stage resumed only this week after a six-month shutdown.

"We are discussing, we are monitoring, we are seeing if it can be hosted in Qatar maybe at the beginning of the year (in 2021)," Infantino said on Friday of the old-style Club World Cup.

A revamped, 24-team edition was to launch in June 2021 until FIFA put it on hold. That cleared space after the 2020 European Championship and 2020 Copa America were postponed for one year.

South America's 10-team qualifying group for the 2022 World Cup was unable to start in March as the pandemic spread.

A full 18-round program should begin on Oct. 8 and faces challenges to end by March 2022 ahead of FIFA's intercontinental playoffs in June 2022.

The games workload and demands to travel to South America—where COVID-19 infection rates are high and testing capacity is under pressure—are concerning the FIFPro group of player unions worldwide.

"I am concerned," Infantino said of the congested World Cup qualifiers which Asia is skipping until next year. "This is obviously a real problem especially if the pandemic doesn't stop or get weaker, or we don't start playing in a normal way."

FIFA already added extra dates for national team games in January 2022 to catch up, and "if need be, we must find other windows," its president said.

Infantino also suggested playing qualifiers "in one venue instead of home and away" and squeezing three games instead of two into a 10-day international period.

European national teams will play three games in each of October and November to complete the Euro 2020 playoffs and Nations League groups this year. Its World Cup qualifying groups start in March.

The smaller Club World Cup—six continental champions plus the host nation's league winner—was being staged for a second year by Qatar to prepare for World Cup hosting.

"We certainly want to see if we can keep it," Infantino said.

Only Bayern Munich has qualified internationally after winning UEFA's Champions League last month.

The Asian Champions League also resumed this week and aims for a final in the second half of December.

Even if all FIFA competition games can be played as scheduled, the FIFPro union wants to let players opt out of their obligation to report for national team duty.

FIFA made concessions ahead of Europe's return to national team action in September if players were affected by travel limits or mandatory quarantine periods.

FORM

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rantula" Turner, with the latter earning a submission win (rear-naked choke) in the second round of their duel in the UFC Fight Night 177. Before forcing Weaver to tap out, Turner pummeled the Alabama fighter with heavy punches on the face, including a strong right late in the first round that landed the former to the canvas.

After seeing Weaver, who claimed in pre-fight interviews how he has improved a lot since training under American Top Team, struggled against Turner, MMA pundits believed it would have been Camacho out there celebrating the much-needed victory.

The Team Oyama standout, on the other hand, downplayed the experts' observation, saying that anything can happen in a fight.

"It's kind of like how I was "supposed to win" against Justin Jaynes," said Camacho. Jaynes filled in for Camacho's original foe, Matt Frevola, who was pulled out from the UFC Fight Night 173 after his cornerman tested positive for COVID-19.

"But, I was so excited to fight Brok. I would have exposed a lot of holes in his game, LOL," added the 31-year-old, who still went through some workout while in quarantine to fight off the virus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, in this file photo, uses his knee to hit Germany's Nick Hein during their bout in the UFC Fight Night 153 in Sweden last year.

With Camacho waiting to be officially cleared for returning to the octagon cage, there have been discussions on social media about the fight card he should be in. One suggests the UFC Fight Night 254 that will be held in Abu Dhabi on Oct. 25 and top-billed by the Khabib Nurmagomedov and Justin Gaethje collision with the UFC lightweight championship at stake. Four more UFC events are slated in Abu Dhabi (Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, 11, and 18), while the seven remaining competitions are scheduled from Oct. 31 to Dec. 12 with venues yet to be determined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Camacho's next bout will be crucial, as it is the last in his second contract with UFC. He is determined to finish the deal on a strong note and bounce back from back-to-back losses. Camacho holds a 22-9 record and owns a 2-5 mark in the UFC with his last win recorded more than a year ago against Germany's Nick Hein (TKO/punches) in UFC Fight Night 153 in Sweden.

JR.

From Page 20

Song. All three are now off-island to continue their studies, leaving Woo and Ryu to take the cudgels in helping players develop their skills.

Ryu and Woo's free tennis lessons are very timely, as the AMP courts were just recently reopened after closing their doors to the public for over four months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The sessions are also welcome because tennis is now offseason and CNMI players had limited exposure to tournaments this year.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association completed only three competitions (TanHoldings Tennis Classic, Saipan International School STUCO Tennis Tournament, and Coconut Tennis Classic) for the 2019-2020 calendar, while two off-island events (North Pacific Regional Championships and Pacific Oceania Junior Championships) were canceled due to the pandemic. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Celtics hang tough to take Game 3

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Twins beat Cubs to clinch postseason slot

PAGE 18

'The Crank' pursues fighting form

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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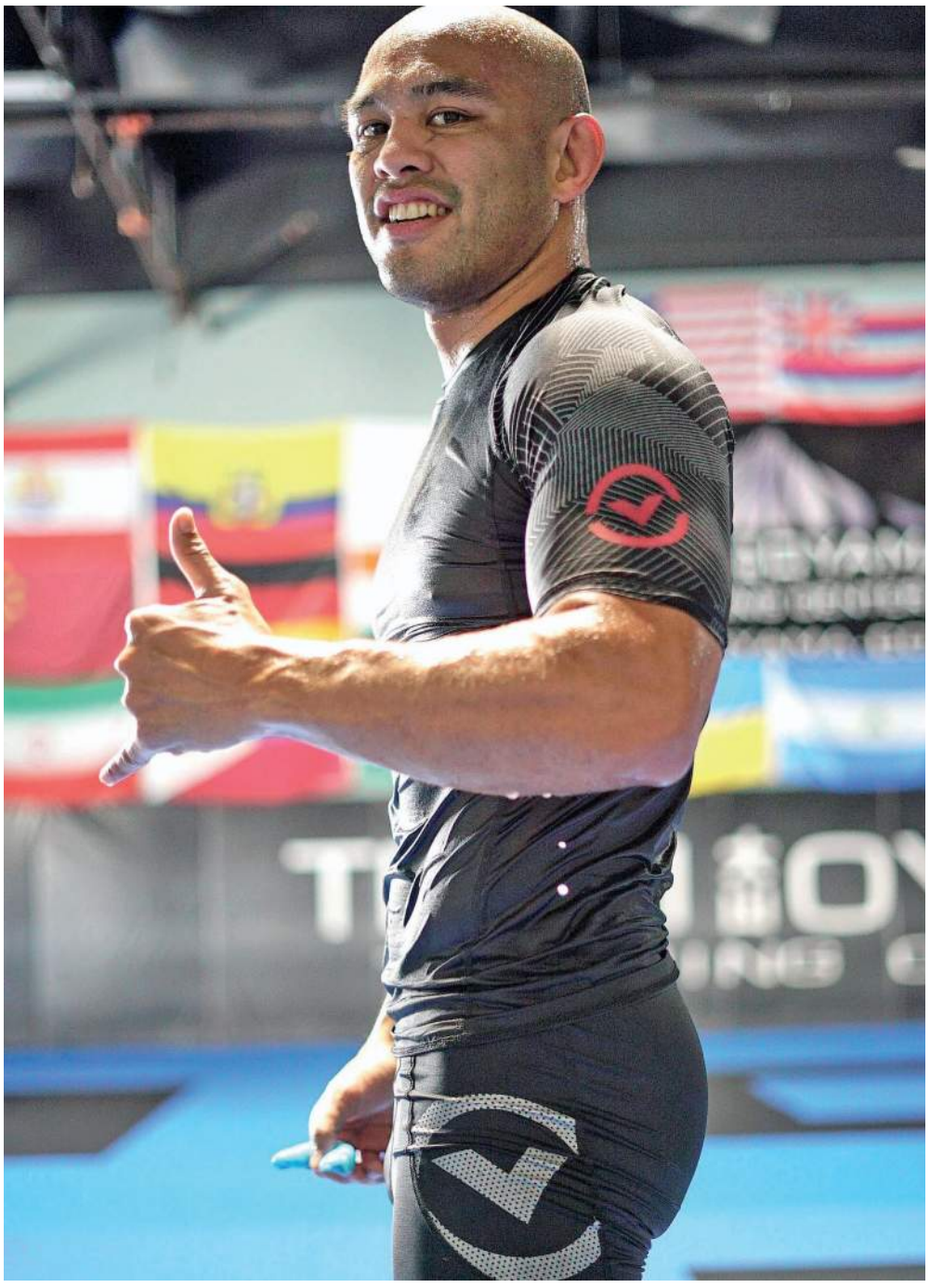
REPORTER

Marianas warrior Frank "The Crank" Camacho has completed his 10-day quarantine and will now focus on getting into fighting form before committing to any bout under the Ultimate Fighting Championship promotion.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho takes a breather from his training camp with Team Oyama in California last month. Camacho is waiting for his return to the octagon cage.

Camacho, who tested positive for COVID-19 a few days before his Sept. 12 showdown against Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver, finished the isolation requirement yesterday, and met with the UFC medical team.

"They checked me today (Sunday morning Saipan time). I haven't been showing symptoms for over 24 hours since I completed the 10-day quarantine so I got cleared," said Camacho, who still have to undergo a series of tests before he gets back to training and plans for his next move.

"I will talk to my manager this week to see where they think they could fit me into a fight card. I want at least two to three weeks to recuperate and get back into fighting shape before I commit to anything," added Camacho, who returned to California after his bout against Weaver in Las Vegas, Nevada was canceled.

Weaver lost to Camacho's replacement, Jalin "The Ta-

See FORM on Page 19

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jimin Woo, seen here going for a baseline return to Sean Lee during their boys U16 singles title game in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships at the PIC Saipan hard court last year, will be teaming up with Sam Ryu in holding free tennis lessons at the American Memorial Park courts every Sunday.

Jr. players to hold free tennis lessons

Junior players Jimin Woo and Sam Ryu will be holding free tennis lessons at the American Memorial Park courts every Sunday.

The weekend sessions were supposed to start yesterday, but had to be canceled due to rain. Woo and Ryu, who represented the CNMI Junior National Team in regional tournaments in the past years, will try to kick off the tennis lessons this Sunday, weather permitting. There will be two sessions every weekend with the first one set from 12pm to 1pm and is for beginners. The second session from 1pm to 2pm will cater to advanced players.

It won't be the first time that the Commonwealth's junior players have step up to share their knowledge in the sport and help develop interest in tennis and train young players. Malika Miyawaki also used to hold tennis lessons at the AMP and was assisted by then fellow junior players Robbie Schorr and Ken

See JR. on Page 19

Slow metabolism and rapid weight loss

Q: So I've been on a calorie deficit for months now, and I feel like I need to drop it down some more because my weight won't budge. What do you think?

A: What inevitably happens through the course of any calorie restricted diet is the reduction in your daily energy expenditure (how many calories you burn). Past a certain point, and this is largely contextual, you become less responsive toward actively losing weight. It's only natural for your body to adapt that way the further along you're in a diet. You can't be in a calorie deficit forever.

Needless to say, there are strategies to attenuate the drop in your energy expenditure, but in the interest of keeping things simple, this is exactly why you should never stop strength training.

Equally important, too, is getting in sufficient protein. Both are vital as packing on muscle plays a significant role in your metabolic rate.

Q: Several of my friends are on the ketogenic diet, and they lost a lot of weight. It's kind of discouraging because my rate of progress isn't as fast as I'd like it to be.

A: Try not to compare your results to someone else's. Everyone has a different starting point. In addition, genetics, lifestyle, and dietary habits affect one's rate of progress. Therefore, the outcome is highly individual.

Fact is, anybody can see a pretty significant drop on the scale in the initial phase of their weight loss. It's not unheard of to lose five pounds within a week or two. Most people are fairly adaptive. However, it's important to note beyond that, if you're losing weight at an extremely rapid rate that is a prime indication you're losing a greater proportion of lean body mass, not fat.

This isn't to discredit the utility of the keto diet. We just need to appreciate the value of being more judicious with our approach.

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune *and* TAGA Sports*. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.*